23rd ANNUAL CHILDREN'S NUMBER

OCTOBER, 1934

THE CRISIS

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Some Notes by H. L. Mencken

NRA CODIFIES WAGE SLAVERY

By John P. Davis

TVA: LILY-WHITE RECONSTRUCTION

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Volume 41, No. 10 *Whole No. 286*

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NEXT MONTH

We expect to present in the November issue:

●

A short article on politics by Oswald Garrison Villard.

●

"Uncle Tom In Hollywood," by Loren Miller.

●

An account of the new anti-Red, anti-Negro wave of terror in the South, by Louise Thompson.

●

The prize winning essay from the high school group in the recent N.A.A.C.P. contest.

●

A story about Jews in the South and the lynching of a Negro.

●

Letters from readers on Langston Hughes's article, "Cowards from the Colleges," on the McClendon essay on Negro colleges, and on the boycott.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

H. L. Mencken was formerly editor of The American Mercury and writes a column in the Baltimore *Sun*.

Charles H. Houston is dean of the law school at Howard university and John P. Davis is secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery.

P. L. Prattis is a member of the staff of the Associated Negro Press, Chicago.

Josephine Schuyler is the wife of George S. Schuyler and has done much writing under various pen names.

L. Herbert Henegan is a member of the staff of the Kansas City *Call*.

W. Rollo Wilson is editor of the Philadelphia *Independent*, sports columnist for the Pittsburgh *Courier*, Deputy Athletic Commissioner of Pennsylvania, and Commissioner, Negro National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs.

T. A. Daley, who reviews W. Mercier Cook's new book, is a doctor of letters of the University of Paris and instructor in French at Howard university.

Notes on Negro Strategy

By H. L. Mencken

OF all the peoples in captivity in the United States it seems to me that the Negroes are the frankest in discussing their own situation. Reading the magazines and newspapers of the race, I am constantly amazed (and I may add, delighted) by the candor with which such men as Dr. Kelly Miller and George S. Schuyler discourse on Negro weaknesses and Negro illusions. Certainly nothing of the sort is visible in any other quarter. One seldom finds an article against a Jew in a Jewish paper, and never a word against Jews in general. Anti-Semitism, as it is depicted therein, is a purely satanic phenomenon, without the faintest color of excuse in Jewish torts. The Irish, when they contemplate themselves, are just as cocksure and humorless, and so are the Germans, the Italians, the Poles, the Swedes, and the rest. But the dark brethren, though they have their romantics too, also have a band of realists, and these realists are surely not given to weasel words.

Mob Opinion Rules

At one point, however, their libido for the bald and blistering fact seems to slacken a bit, and they join the romantics in embracing a theory that is probably far from sound. This is the theory that the Negro, under the American system of government, has certain inalienable rights, both political and social, and that when he is deprived of them by wicked men he can get them back by making an uproar. On what does he ground his confidence here? On a reading, I suppose, of the Bill of Rights, and of its three supplements, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. But what is this sonorous charter of liberties really worth? It is worth to the Negro precisely what it is worth to the American white man. That is to say, it is worth whatever courts and legislatures choose to make it from time to time. And what they choose to make it is no more and no less than what the consensus of opinion—not of enlightened opinion, mind you, but of general opinion, of mass opinion, of mob opinion—wants to see it made.

They may go counter to this mass opinion on occasion, but it is only by a kind of inadvertence; taking one day with another they heed it very sedulously. In fact, they seldom move at all until it has made itself known, and then they commonly move with great alacrity,

Mr. Mencken, the Sage of Baltimore, here advances the theory that neither by uproar or legal processes is the Negro likely to secure the rights he craves; indeed, that perhaps the Negro problem is insoluble

leaping over every impediment, whether in the Bill of Rights or in common decency, with the lightness of a gazelle. Thus it must always be vain, in the long run, to ask them to protect any rights that are denied by the popular will. The Constitution, in theory, would give them support if they stood fast for those rights, but they are realists not theorists, and as realists they are well aware that the Constitution, at any given moment and as a practical matter, is no more than what the majority conceives it to be and wants it to be.

That the majority will has been running against rights in late years is a notorious fact. It is so all over Europe, from the North Cape to the Bosphorus, and it is only too plainly so in the United States. There is a kind of revulsion against liberty everywhere, and against everything that goes with it. Now and then it may recover some lost ground or make a trifling gain, but the general movement is overwhelmingly in the other direction. In every country the people are losing rights that they had yesterday, and in most countries they are losing them willingly. The chief heroes everywhere are persons who have discovered new forms of subjugation, and in many cases what they ordain to loud applause is hard to distinguish from downright slavery.

Enough Rights for Present

In the face of this tendency the American Negro is certainly not likely, at least in the near future, to realize the dreams of those who propose with so much confidence to deliver him. Even if his rights could be recovered by a purely legal process, disregarding the popular will, they could not be enjoyed against the popular will. And the popular will, only too manifestly, is opposed to granting them. The general feeling in the country, unless I misjudge it sadly, is that the Negro has gone far enough, that he already has as much as he deserves, and should be content for a while. But whether I am right or wrong here, it is surely plain enough that the public mood is against granting any more rights to anyone, whether deserved or not. There is some crying up of new privileges, but none of new rights. The majority of the American people are hunting for cover, not for freedom.

Well, what is to be done about it? It may be, for all I know, that nothing can be done about it. Many people seem to believe, as a cardinal article of faith, that what *ought* to be cured *can* be cured, but I have never been able to find any evidence of it in history. Some of the most pressing of human problems remain as far from solution today as they were in the days of Hammurabi. The problem of sex is an obvious example. How are we to reconcile the impulses let loose in every human being at puberty with the restraints necessary to an orderly society? There have been ten thousand answers, but not one has really answered. Nor has there ever been a satisfactory solution of the problem of government. Some governments, of course, are better than others, but every one is almost intolerably bad at bottom, and not all the wiseacres the world has seen in forty centuries have been able to devise a good one.

Problem May Be Insoluble

Thus it may well be that the problem facing the American Negro is insoluble too. In tackling it he has his choice of following dreamers of a gaudy fancy or realists with serpents' tongues, but perhaps they are alike impotent in the premises. It is possible that he may have to get whatever consolation he can out of the idea that lost rights, like unrequited love, have their high psychical uses. Indeed, it would not be hard to argue that the Negro, if he had gained full and real equality in 1865, might have gone a great deal less further along the road than he has got today, tripped and haltered at every step. He might have sunk into the complacency of a stupid and half-forgotten peasantry: It is oppression that has brought out his best qualities, and bred his most intelligent leaders. The Jews, who have always had grievances a-plenty, have nevertheless managed to do pretty well

(*Continued on page* 304)

NEXT MONTH

Oswald Garrison Villard will have some observations on politics in the November CRISIS, out October 21.

TVA: Lily-White

By Charles H. Houston

THE Tennessee River drains large parts of seven states: Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee. Prior to 1933 little had been done to conserve and harness the vast power potentialities of the river, aside from the construction of a dam, power plant and nitrate factory at Muscle Shoals begun during the World War. Immediately upon the inauguration of President Roosevelt, however, his administration embarked on a Tennessee Valley program which included a stupendous hydro-electric development of the river, coupled with a plan for the economic and social rehabilitation of the entire valley.

This program represents a new departure in the conservation and development of natural resources and planned regional economy. In its entirety it is a vital experiment aimed to rid from economic and social blight the 2,364,000 people of the Valley region, of whom 238,000 are Negroes. More than this, it is intended as a "yardstick" for comparable projects in the development of other sections of the country.

On May 18, 1933, the Congress of the United States enacted legislation creating the Tennessee Valley Authority as the machinery for the execution of the program. The governing power was placed in a board of three directors, to be appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the senate. The President appointed Arthur E. Morgan, president of Antioch College, as chairman, and Harcourt A. Morgan, president of the University of Tennessee, and David E. Lilienthal, as the other two members. On June 14, 1933, the board held its first meeting and the T.V.A. was launched.

The keynote of the T.V.A. is not profits but social reconstruction. Chairman Morgan has stated officially:

> "The President sees the Valley Authority as a means for displacing haphazard, unplanned and unintegrated social and industrial development by introducing increasing elements of order, design and forethought. Some problems of other regions are absent here. For instance, *with only half of one per cent of the population foreign born, the issue of making Americans out of immigrants is not present.*" (Italics ours.)

Another official has declared that the T.V.A. program is "destined to bridge a social and economic gap of almost a hundred years."

Recently, Collier's magazine carried an article on the TVA entitled, "There'll Be Shouting in the Valley", but this article reveals that there is no shouting from the thousands of Negro residents in the Tennessee Valley who have been excluded from the Government's New Deal experiment

When one considers the position of the Negroes in the Tennessee River Basin, it is evident that more than any other segment of the population, they are in need of the social and economic rehabilitation which the T.V.A. projects. Moreover it is also inevitable that the program cannot be successful without the integration of the large Negro segment into both the immediate and future plans of the T.V.A. Certainly no program to "displace haphazard, unplanned and unintegrated social and industrial development" in the region can proceed without inclusion of the Negro. For it is the Negro who has been most exposed to the anti-social practices and economic exploitation which have retarded the development of the region.

For the Negro: Nothing

Let us analyze the T.V.A. program. The T.V.A. is spending millions upon millions of dollars in the valley in construction projects. This has suddenly stimulated employment and created a temporary and limited prosperity. But looking beyond the day when this temporary and limited prosperity will peter out as the construction comes to an end, the T.V.A. is attempting to make the valley self-sustaining. It hopes that its hydro-electric development of an ultimate pool of 3,000,000 horsepower of cheap electricity will cause a large scale industrial expansion along its transmission lines, which in turn will start a chain of increased employment at living wages, a rise in purchasing power, more consumption of goods with attendant increase in the standard of living. It is attempting to show the way for an excess city population to go back to the farm with assurance of an adequate livelihood and comfortable homes by the development of domestic industry and small farming, as a balance between industry and agriculture. A special subsidiary corporation, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, has been created by the T.V.A. with an initial working capital of $1,000,000, and a credit pool from the R.F.C. of $10,000,000, to produce and sell all manner of domestic electric appliances to the valley residents on the lowest possible instalment terms at reduced interest.

The greatest program of regional education ever attempted anywhere is being put in force. Model dairies, poultry farms, tree nurseries, garden farms, woodworking, automotive, metal and electrical shops, and a general agricultural training program either have been, or soon will be started out of public funds, designed to teach the T.V.A. workers and other valley residents how to make an independent living combining industry and agriculture. The whites are being given every encouragement to take advantage of the educational opportunities, but last July when the authors visited the region and asked what provision had been made for the instruction of Negroes the answer was that nothing had been done and nothing definite proposed. There is no rehabilitation for the Negro.

Out of taxpayers' money the T.V.A. is building the model town of Norris, Tennessee, to contain a basic number of 500 families. The town is designed to house the permanent force at Norris Dam and those in charge of adjacent T.V.A. enterprises. No expense has been spared to make and preserve it as the *ideal* American community. Building and landscape architects; engineer specialists in land planning, building construction, highway, landscape, electrical and heating

Brick TVA Houses for Whites

Reconstruction

and John P. Davis

design; together with recognized social and domestic science consultants were and still are employed without any limit on cost. Three hundred thousand dollars has been allocated by the F.E.R.A. to start co-operative operations in the new community.

Lily White Town

In a press release November 24, 1933, the T.V.A. declared that Norris had been selected after a great deal of exploration and consideration as the site best suited "for the development of a permanent community serving the probable social and industrial development of the locality. The T.V.A. owns the ground, builds the houses, and then in order to keep the maximum control over the community does not sell the property but only leases it to the workers accepted.

The families admitted to the community are selected by the T.V.A. with the greatest care. They are all white. The authorities told us bluntly no Negroes would be permitted to occupy houses in Norris, "Because Negroes do not fit into the program." Thus their position is that Negroes do not belong in the "ideal American community" built and maintained by public funds, in spite of the fact that there is not a town of 500 families in the entire Tennessee River Basin (except perhaps in the extreme mountain sections) where Negroes and whites do not live side by side. Yet in Norris Negroes are excluded by agents of the federal government.

As one studies the operations of the T.V.A., one is struck by the fact that in almost every activity the Negro is either systematically excluded or else discreetly overlooked. The Authority is bending over backwards not to give any offense to the traditions of the South. The Negro is completely excluded from the social rehabilitation program. In all the public press releases of the T.V.A. the Negro is mentioned only once, and then simply in the capacity of labor. On March 14, 1934, the T.V.A. released a speech by F. W. Reeves, its director of personnel and training, in which Mr. Reeves said:

> "One of the things the authority is trying to accomplish in labor relations is to secure a fair deal for Negroes. At Muscle Shoals the population is 20% Negro. Therefore, the Authority plans to employ Negroes in both skilled and unskilled labor positions up to 20% of the total employees in that area. No discrimination is made between races with reference to wages paid or hours of work."

In other words, the only function that the Negro has in the T.V.A., the only recognition which the T.V.A. gives him, is as a labor commodity. And even this function is subject to certain exceptions.

The story goes that word came down from Washington that the T.V.A. had to do something for the Negro. It was apparent that the Negro was going to get little or nothing from the other New Deal agencies. The T.V.A. was ordered to make up the deficiency. What did it do? It gave Negroes their "proportionate" share of employment, but not their "proportionate" share of the payroll. When the authors made their visit last July, not a single Negro was employed on the "inside" or in a clerical or office position, except one assistant personnel officer at Norris Dam, Max Bond. Not a single Negro was employed as a foreman or higher. By keeping all Negro employees on the lower levels of employment, the proportionate share of the payrolls was less than one per cent of the total.

"Can't Mix Races"

The authorities were asked if there was discrimination in employment. They first answered no; then they qualified by saying that they would not employ Negro artisans unless they could get enough for a crew; that they would not work a mixed crew of white and colored. But the "mixed crew" objection is simply a bogey to mask discrimination and keep Negroes out of jobs. On the night shift at the Joe Wheeler Dam the authors saw white and Negro drillers working on the same drill. The white worker was the driller; the Negro his helper. When the white worker left the drill for any reason, the Negro helper would run it until he got back. Mixed crews work all over the South without any clash, except where somebody wants to keep Negroes out of jobs.

The authorities next told us that they were employing Negroes according to the trades in which they were customarily found in the valley: such as drillers, powder men, concrete pourers, etc. In short, no attempt is made at educating the Negro or diversifying his skills; the T.V.A. aims to maintain the *status quo*. But even so, at Norris Dam the head cook in the Negro barracks last July was a white man; and white carpenters were building the temporary cottages to house Negro workers who wanted to have their families with them.

According to official T.V.A. pronouncement there are no temporary cottages at Norris; but over in the woods, across the road from Norris, there are temporary barracks and cottages for Negro workers. There is a story behind this. Originally it had been planned to have Norris Dam an all-white project with white workers only. No provisions were made for Negro workers. But Negro resentment against the New Deal had reached such a point of disillusion and resentment that the T.V.A. had to let down some of the bars, and Negro workers were taken on at Norris Dam. The authors asked the authorities if a condition to admitting Negro families to the cottages would be that the workers' women folk would be expected to do domestic service for the white housewives of the model community of Norris. The authorities said no, but the proof remains to be seen.

There is no complaint about labor relations in the actual construction work at the Dams except for the restriction of Negro employment to certain occupations and to the lower levels at that. The men work side by side without friction, going about their duties in the ordinary way.

Relentless Attack Needed

The real complaint lies in the failure of the T.V.A. to incorporate the Negro as an integral part in its whole economic

(*Continued on page* 311)

Negro Shanty in the Valley

The President of Haiti Expresses Gratitude for American Aid

PORT-AU-PRINCE, LE 6 *Septembre* 1934

Le Président
de la
République d'Haiti

DEAR SIR:—

I have just hoisted before a large and excited crowd the Haitian flag, in the same place where for 19 long years the flag of the United States of America has floated.

This gesture of the First Executive of the Republic, surrounded by Members of the Three Departments of the Government, symbolizes in an unequivocal manner the reintegration of our native country in all the attributes of her political sovereignty. My joy is profound. So is that of the People whose destiny I have the great honor of directing. I am entirely convinced that this joy will soon be perfect. For, if events follow the normal course which, in complete accord with the ideas of President Roosevelt, I have set in motion, they will soon lead to our financial freedom.

But right now I must express in a formal way, and through your valiant magazine my personal gratitude, that of the Government and of the People of Haiti, to all those American friends, colored or white, who, so willingly and so courageously have taken part, on our side, in the long and hard struggle of which the day of last August 21st marked the crowning victory, and who, by their prayers, by their efforts, and by their great publicity campaign have in such a large measure contributed to the freedom of my country. The feeling of great sympathy that they have created about Haiti has made my hard task easier and helped towards the positive triumph of the Haitian Cause.

Tell them that we will never forget it, and that their names are written in the hearts of true Haitians among those of the philanthropic President Roosevelt and of his influential and sympathetic representative at Port-au-Prince, Monsieur Norman Armour.

(*Signed*) STÉNIO VINCENT

Monsieur Roy Wilkins
Acting Editor DU CRISIS
c/o Monsieur Walter White
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For twenty years Samuel Winningham has been the "watermelon king" of Chicago, selling melons from many countries to customers who come gladly to his corner at Giles avenue and Thirty-seventh street

By P. L. Prattis

"H'M-M, so you're the young man what wants to get a story?" he mumbled rather than spoke.

"Yes, sir," I replied, coating my words with honey, and adding: "You see, I have a friend in New York—he's editing THE CRISIS (you've heard of THE CRISIS?)—and he has asked me to write a story for that magazine so that more people might know what you've done. It might be an inspiration to show others how you have succeeded."

The old gentleman was pottering around, not much interested. He had not been well. An interview was plainly an intrusion. A friend had told me that the "watermelon king" did not get excited about his name in the paper, that he had been a success for many years, and that if the newspapers and magazines were just getting around to him—well, in some fashion, they had not been on their toes. They OUGHT to have told his story long ago. It was just that good.

He called his wife, his daughter.

"This young man wants to write a story about us," he consulted.

The wife and the daughter looked the young man over, not greatly impressed.

"I think you must have a fine story behind you too," I flattered, smiling at the mother.

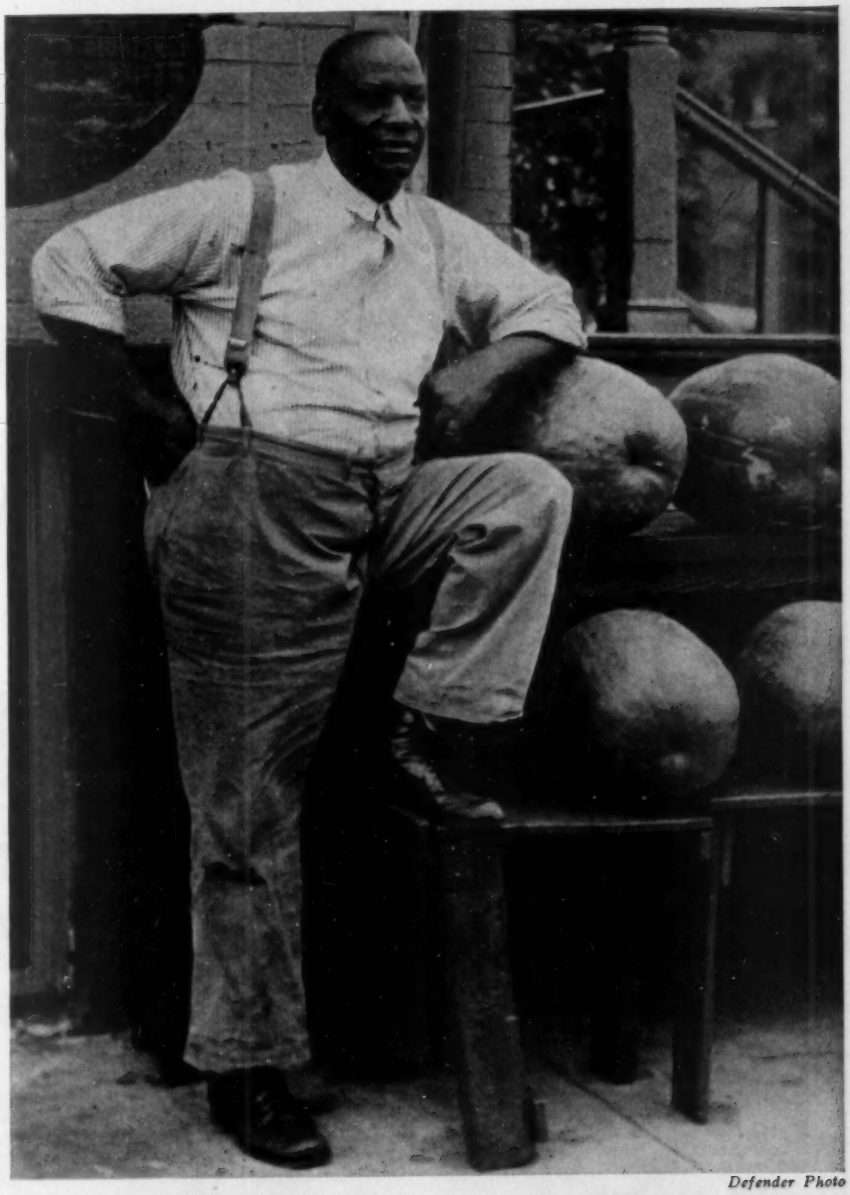
I am rather sure she agreed, for she smiled back and prepared to talk, relieving the tension.

"They just come here and exaggerate so," she explained. "They put the tax collectors on us when they say we make so much more money than we do. And business is not near so good now as it once was. They say Mr. Winningham makes $10,000 a year. Maybe he did some years, but he's not making that now and there's no use giving the government any such idea through publicity."

For 20 Years a King

I agreed and prepared to do my best wheedling. I was compelled to advance over innumerable "Don't say thises" and "Don't say thats," but finally arrived at something of the complete story of Samuel Winningham, for twenty years now the "watermelon king" of Chicago.

If all the slices of watermelon he sold in twenty years were placed end to end, they would cover a line 600 miles long, from Chicago to St. Louis and back.



Defender Photo

Samuel Winningham in Front of His Watermelon Stand

Mr. Winningham was born near Orangeburg, South Carolina. As a boy of 14, he made his way from the farm to the city where he worked in groceries and markets for two years when he decided to go north. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, he found work of the same type he had been doing, and continued his schooling until he had finished the high school.

As he tells his story, one does not get the impression that he was early imbued with the notion that he might some day become a Napoleon in the business

(*Continued on page* 312)

For the Children!

The Slaughter of the Innocents

By Josephine Schuyler

IF the American Negro does not wish to sink to the level of the 70 millions of Indian Untouchables who have been debilitated by centuries of insufficient food, he will have to become diet conscious. The Negro death rate, infant mortality rate, tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia rates are the highest in this country and a disgrace to us. It is inexcusable that 8 times more Negro girls and 11 times more Negro boys than white yearly die of tuberculosis in New York city; that in the country at large, heart diseases are 50 percent higher among colored than white and that rickets have become so common in Aframerica that one authority states that Negro children are, almost without exception, rachitic. It is the way we feed our children that prepares the soil for this preponderance of death and disease. Unless we feed them better in the future all other programs for the advancement of the Aframerican will fail. This useless slaughter of the innocents will automatically increase the inferiority of the Negro status.

It is ironic and noteworthy that the Negro's bad health record dates from the Civil War. But a proper knowledge of food can greatly offset a low income. The emigrant Jew with as little money has a lower tuberculosis rate due to a slightly better diet. Without the accident of dark pigmentation, it is possible the Negro would have fared even worse. A dark skin, resulting from centuries of abundant sunlight, has a natural resistance to certain skin diseases. The Negro has also benefitted by the law of the survival of the fittest which was active among slave cargoes; and finally, by the sexual selection encouraged by slave owners. A degenerative diet will, however, progressively impair these primary advantages.

Mothers are called to battle disease and death with inexpensive balanced diets for their children by Mrs. Schuyler, who, although a devotee of raw diets, makes no special plea for them in this interesting article

Food and Growth

Growth, health, size, vigor, even the future fertility of our children can be controlled by the kind of food they eat. Even racial differences are now generally believed to be largely due to food differences. The Masai people in Africa who live chiefly on a diet of meat and milk are of magnificent stature because these are vigor and bone building foods. The ancient Ethiopians were called the handsomest people in the world by Herodotus. Their diet was meat and milk. On the other hand, the Japanese who are notoriously small and slender, live on a diet containing no milk and little meat. They are, according to Prof. Hirai, of the Imperial University of Kyoto, undernourished and their diet of rice, vegetables and fish is deficient in fat soluble A and calcium.

The influence of diet in the improvement of stature even in one generation is to be seen among American-born Japanese children. With slightly more Vitamin A in their diet they are both taller and heavier than children of corresponding ages in Japan. Even the characteristically small, slant eyes are altered.

The positive relation of Vitamin A to strong eyes was proved during the late war. Due to war prices, the poorer classes in Denmark could no longer afford butter, the chief Danish export. Soon, an epidemic of sore eyes developed among their children. The Danish government, one of the most enlightened in the world, learned the cause and passed a law providing every child with a daily portion of butter sufficient to maintain health and growth. The eye infection disappeared like magic. Night blindness among Brazilian Negroes was found to be caused by a diet of cornmeal, pork and beans.

Literally millions of American Negroes are living upon the "plantation diet" of cornmeal, pork and white sugar. That they do live at all and many of them reach an honorable, if painful, old age is due to the abundant sunshine in the South and to occasional intakes of vitamins found in turnips, greens, onions, sweet potatoes, summer fruit and melons. But these valuable foods are not plentifully enough consumed nor properly prepared to insure children a normal physical and mental development.

Diet and Mentality

Hungry, anemic children can learn only with the greatest difficulty. Quoting from Emmet Holt, formerly professor of children's diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University,

> "As far back as 1893 Porter's observations in St. Louis showed that children who gave evidence in their school work of more than average capacity, as measured by progress in their studies, were both taller and heavier than their companions of the same ages whose work was inferior."

That there is a close correspondence between physical and mental progress in school has been since confirmed by no less than 18 investigations. Prof. Holt concludes that.

> "Physical and mental conditions are interdependent."

Many parents are under the impression that poor school work does not necessarily mean an impaired future.

Connie Cecile Cole, Birmingham, Ala. | Huntington K. Alexander, Birmingham, Ala. | Frances Claryce Evans, Birmingham, Ala. | Harrison B. McKinney, 3rd, Birmingham, Ala. | Richard William Pickens, New York City | Joan Garland Smith, Columbus, Ohio

There are exceptions but a recent survey proved that children who did brilliant work in school had fifty percent better chance to succeed in life.

Bryant, in 1919, reported that among the school children of Washington, 7 percent of the boys who were well nourished were making rapid progress, against none with malnutrition. The difference was less marked among girls, possibly because they expend less energy at play. It was proved in Germany that underfed children could withstand disease longer provided their energy was conserved.

It is constantly repeated that colored children who are bright up to 12 years, thereafter show a marked falling off in their intelligence rate. This tendency has been explained psychologically (the impact of prejudice on the awakening mind) but without doubt malnutrition plays the greater part. It is established that the seriousness of malnutrition increases as the child grows. At 12 years of age adolescence begins, the demands upon the body are greater and the full force of improper feeding is apparent. It is unsafe to trust to a child's instinct in selecting food. Prof. Rose in *The Foundations of Nutrition,* points out that chronically underfed children have to be coaxed to eat a normal diet.

Diet and Disease

Again to quote Holt:

"With the great majority of diseases the state of nutrition has a very important relation to resistance."

He relates how Dr. Trudeau, experimenting with tuberculosis, inoculated two groups of guinea pigs. One group was given good food, sunshine, fresh air; the other group had a diet poor in vitamins and no sun. The well-nourished group recovered from its infection, grew, gained weight, was normal, and when killed the lesions produced by the infections were completely cured. The second group lost ground daily and in a short time died of tuberculosis.

The campaign against tuberculosis, that dreaded angel of death in young Aframerica, has increasingly become one of diet improvement. An abundance of Vitamin A is the best insurance against not only the white plague but all respiratory diseases. The absence of Vitamins A and D in smaller quantities causes the excessive amount of rickets found among Negro children, the "saddle-heads"; narrow, beaded chests, flat feet, curvatures; the deformed, knotty limbs and narrow pelvis.

Martha Eliot, director of the Hygiene Division of the United States' Children's bureau, establishes the fact that a child's health begins with the mother:

"Preventive measures cannot be undertaken too early. It is during the first few weeks of life that rickets develop in a large proportion of babies, and if the disease is to be controlled, sun baths and cod liver oil must be given at this time."

Caroline Florence Davis Institute, W. Va.

A. F. Hess and L. J. Unger, making a survey of the prevalence of rickets in Harlem in 1918, found 90 per cent of the Negro infants rachitic, and that the condition of the mother during pregnancy and lactation was largely at fault. The diet of the average Harlem mother was discovered to be almost totally lacking in eggs, milk, butter and green vegetables which would have furnished considerable amounts of Vitamins D (and A) and prevented rickets.

The Vitamins

In all there are said to be six vitamins —A, B, C, D, E, F, G (Vitamin B is often divided into F and G). The existence of vitamins was first definitely established in 1911 by Casimir Funk, a Polish Jew while working in a London laboratory seeking the cause of the Oriental disease, beri-beri. He found beri-beri to be the result of a deficiency in the diet due to eating white rice. Rice bran, which contains Vitamin B, was shown to miraculously cure it. White flour and refined cornmeal also lack Vitamin B. Vitamin A is abundant in egg yolk, milk, butter, cream, carrots, liver, spinach, cod liver oil. Vitamin C, called the antiscrobutic vitamin, is found plentifully in oranges, lettuce, tomatoes, lemons, cabbage, turnips, grape fruit and Irish potatoes, if not cooked longer than 15 minutes. A Vitamin C deficiency affects the heart, causes bad teeth, anemia, and pains in the joints. Prof. Sherman of the Chemistry Department of Columbia University, attributes much of the so-called rheumatism which attacks so many in winter and spring to be due to a diet poor in Vitamin C. The hunger of Southerners for turnips and greens in late winter is explained. Vitamin D is abundant in cod liver oil and sunshine. Vitamin E, the fertility vitamin, is found abundantly in wheat germ and all seeds and green leaves.

The Value of Raw Food

Not only is it necessary to know those foods containing abundance of vitamins but to insure a benefit from them, their heat and storage stability must be known.

Dr. Marion Delf, investigating in South Africa, called attention to the effect which long cooking of vegetables had on a diet theoretically sufficient to maintain health if consumed raw. The habit of cooking vegetables twice in a hospital in Vienna caused an outbreak of scurvy. The U. S. Government pamphlet on Vitamins plainly shows that in every instance with the possible exception of tomatoes and grains, cooking or prolonged storage causes definite deterioration of the vitamin content of food.

For an economically depressed group like Aframericans, the benefits of raw food should at least be known. They could considerably increase the health of their children with no greater expenditure just by simply following the rule that the less food is cooked the more life it will support, and the longer it is cooked the less use it is. Practice giving children raw eggs instead of cooked ones, soaked and lightly cooked whole grains instead of package cereals, raw salads of chopped cabbage, grated carrots, grated turnips; mashed bananas and nuts instead of fancy desserts, or soaked raw prunes and raisins. And of course, plenty of the ordinary raw fruits and vegetables should always be served. Those foods that must be cooked like Irish potatoes, green peas, spinach and corn should be put in a covered pan with very little water, brought to a boil, removed from the flame and while still covered, allowed to steam through. For meat, the gland organs are best, liver, kidneys and heart. They should be lightly broiled in butter.

Though not particularly writing of Negroes, Emmet Holt in *Food, Health and Growth* stated that

"Upon the nutrition of the children depends very largely the future of the race from a physical standpoint, and one might almost say from an economic standpoint also."

It is up to the cooks of Aframerica, the women, to start this revolution in diet which will keep their children from incurring an even worse fate than chattel slavery. They will have the men and the old folks to combat but it will be worth it.

Keeping Well Babies Well

By L. Herbert Henegan

KEEPING well-babies well is one of the outstanding features of Kansas City's year-round health program.

No Negro Health Week's activities are complete without a major share of the effort being centered upon the health and welfare of young children and the clinics established in various parts of the city for their benefit. This is a fortunate condition since it is obvious that a community of well babies kept healthy by well baby stations not only helps to curtail the high infant mortality rate, but makes for better citizenship and usefulness of the individual.

For the past three years in succession, Kansas City has won first place nationally for its Negro Health Week program. By virtue of these three straight victories, this year the city was awarded the coveted Progress trophy, a plaque, which represents a permanent award for outstanding achievement. The plaque hangs on a wall in the office of the Health Conservation Association more as a challenge for further successes rather than as a trophy of past victories.

This recognition from the National Negro Health committee of which Dr. Roscoe C. Brown is chairman, does not mean that Kansas City is the healthiest city in the United States. As a matter of fact it ranks fifteenth. But this recognition does indicate that the Negro citizens themselves have made a greater contribution to health projects during the past three years than those of any other city and exerted more effort and energy to make the health campaign really beneficial and sustaining.

The strategy of the Kansas City Health campaign is marked by a continuous year-round program and not by a feverish spurt of enthusiasm for a week each spring.

Excessive infant mortality, according to statistics, is one of the chief reasons for the high Negro death rate. The Visiting Nurses Association is the pioneer in Kansas City in laying the foundation for child welfare among Negroes. A little booklet called "Child Welfare Stations for Colored Children in Kansas City" written several years ago by Miss Phyllis M. Dacey, R. N., director of the Visiting Nurses Association, tells how the well baby clinics for Negro children were established.

She wrote in 1924 as follows: "Although we have had child welfare stations and well baby clinics for more than 12 years, it has been only during the last two years that any definite work

For three successive years, Kansas City, Missouri, has been rated first in the annual Negro Health Week campaigns. Since 1925 it has reduced its Negro infant mortality 100 per cent

along this line has been done for colored babies.

"In Kansas City the color line is very definitely drawn and although colored babies were admitted to two clinics (one general and one child welfare) only occasional visits were made by a few colored mothers with their babies. We have a large colored population and (we are sorry to admit) a large colored death rate.

First Station Opened in 1922

"Surely, we felt, this was a condition which could be helped and the Visiting Nurses Association knew that one of the surest ways to help was by teaching the colored mothers to care for their babies properly just as we have been teaching the white mothers these many years. We opened our first Colored Child Welfare Station on July 6, 1922."

Through the courtesy of the directors of the Wheatley Provident Hospital, the Visiting Nurses Association was allowed to use the hospital clinic rooms on Thursday morning from 9 to 11. The day of the opening of the Negro well baby clinic, nine mothers brought as many youngsters for an examination. The attendance has steadily grown during the past 12 years until the average attendance now is between 30 and 35 each week. The first clinic was centrally located and the mothers were quick and eager to respond to the service offered without cost.

The steady growth of the clinic made it necessary to move to other quarters. The clinic established at Wheatley Provident Hospital had outgrown the available space, so in November, 1923, quarters were secured at the Urban League Community Center.

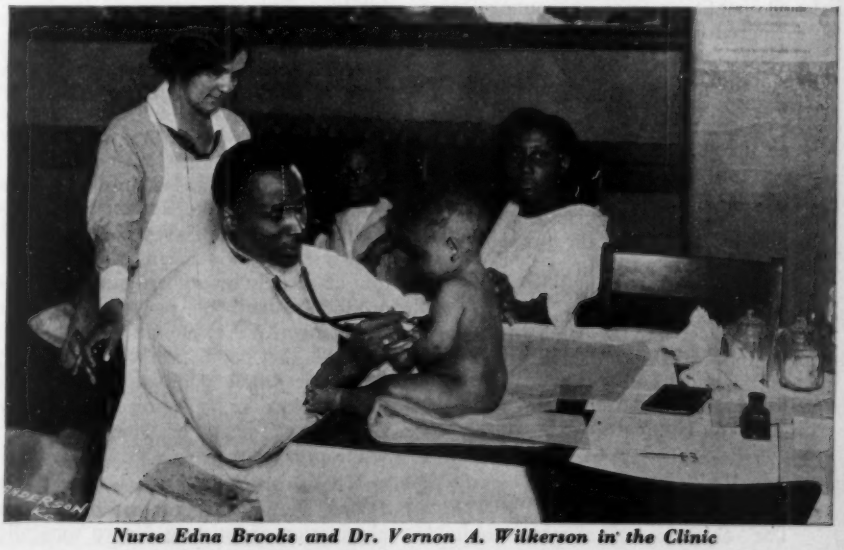
The progress at the first clinic was so encouraging to the Visiting Nurses Association that a second was opened in November, 1922. The park board permitted them the use of a sunshiny room at the Garrison field house, a recreational center for Negroes in the north section of the city.

At the present time there is only one well baby station for Negro children in Kansas City. It is located in the Urban League building at Nineteenth and Vine streets. At the beginning of the year the clinic at the Garrison field house was discontinued due to the small attendance on the part of the mothers in that area.

Only Well Babies Admitted

Families whose income is not more than $90 per month are entitled to send one child to the clinic each week without cost. If the income is one hundred dollars or over, two children from the same family may be examined and have their weekly check-ups made by the clinic physician, and the visiting nurse.

(*Continued on page* 306)



Nurse Edna Brooks and Dr. Vernon A. Wilkerson in the Clinic

NRA Codifies Wage Slavery

By John P. Davis

Since July, 1933, Mr. Davis, as secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery in Washington (not connected in any way with the government) has been battling for the proper recognition of the Negro worker in the New Deal program. He replies here, in logical fashion, to the article on Negro workers and the NRA by Dr. Gustav Peck which appeared last month

DR. GUSTAV PECK'S article on the NRA and Negro workers which appeared in the September issue of this magazine failed to answer the one question vital to any consideration of this subject, namely: "What has NRA done for Negro workers?" Rather, his interest seems to have been in giving a jeremiad of why the Labor Advisory Board has failed to function in the interest of black workers and a graceful apology for the rationalizations used to justify this failure. His interest, however, is not the interest of hundreds of thousands of Negro industrial workers whose hungry stomachs cannot feed on apologies, regrets and promises of better times in the future. For them and for me his analysis of NRA policies affecting Negro workers is meaningless.

My purpose, then, is not so much to lay bare the ingenuous reasoning to which Dr. Peck has committed himself but rather it is to draw out sharply the inevitable contradictions which make NRA a weapon of calamity for Negro workers, and for most workers regardless of complexion. In short, I am interested in answering the question which Dr. Peck has avoided.

The initial step in answering this question must be the attempt, at least, to determine the intent of NRA. It is difficult to find from the mass of confused public statements coming from the mercurial tongues of high officials of NRA, what it intended or intends. Broadly speaking, however, there could have been only either one or both of two reasonable objectives. On the one hand the purpose might have been to modify our profits system so as to give workers a more equitable proportion of our national income; or, to nullify immobilities obstructing the proper working out of this system, on the assumption that efforts to maintain profits do not *already* contradict the flow of purchasing power into the hands of the buying public. Either of these objectives was impossible of attainment without conscious action on the part of NRA designed to eliminate the untypical condition of Negro labor.

Should Have Begun on Negroes

The objective of a more equitable distribution of income between employers and employees meant drastic limitation of so-called "laissez-faire" industry. Such an objective renders meaningless any attempted justifications to the effect that Negro workers have always received less wages than white workers, that the South is industrially backward, and that Southern industrialists wish to derive the benefits that came from exploitation of labor in early industrialism. The immobility of capital and labor in the South is exactly the vicious economic condition which such an objective would seek to cure. It is, therefore, precisely among Negro industrial workers of the South (who are the most extreme sufferers of exploitation) that corrections of the condition by NRA should first have been begun and vigorously pursued.

If the second, and less ambitious, objective had been intended in NRA codification, it would still have been necessary to remove Negro wage differentials. A properly organized profits economy does not indefinitely permit an immobile and (in this sense) excessive supply of unorganized workers. It envisions the relatively quick removal of illiteracy and low standards of living, realizing that such factors must impede production and the flow of purchasing power into the hands of the buying public. Such an objective would recognize the inevitability of cut-throat competition through the inversion of profits-seeking, in that industrialists, unable to compete on a free and competitive basis, would seek to take advantage of the unprotected wage slaves of the South. Such an inversion means the perpetuation of socially inferior organization and production methods, as now exist; for the competitive exploitation of a large part of the population tends to keep down the whole population. In short, the existence of widespread Negro poverty must sooner or later contradict white prosperity.

NRA, especially its Labor Advisory Board, should have recognized that the elimination of existing Negro wage differentials was the indispensable antecedent to either national recovery or reform. But the personnel of the Labor Advisory Board and of the technical staff which did its bidding (with only now and then such rare exceptions as Dr. A. G. Silverman, formerly its chief statistician) was not concerned with Negro labor. Packed—as the Board was—with reactionary A. F. of L. leaders of unions, whose members were highly skilled—and practically all white—its interest lay in grasping advantages for these unions. Only the most naive could possibly observe the actions of members of the Board without at once noting the great similarity between such actions and those of pork barrel politicions. The technical staff opportunistically took its pattern after its superiors. Thus these so-called labor leaders and their lackeys time after time sacrificed unskilled and even the skilled, the black and the white worker on the altar of personal interest. The controlling members of the Board knew what they wanted; the technical staff was facile in framing the quack arguments to support the Board's position. Thus failure to adopt *any* social objective has led NRA into disastrous confusion, a confusion and inconsistency which is at once clear in every attempt of justification made by NRA officials.

Collected No Statistics

But nowhere has this confusion been more apparent than in the article by Dr. Peck. Let us examine his arguments in detail. One of his first assertions is that despite the absence of "compelling statistics", it is a "fair deduction" that Negro workers have benefited more than white workers under the NRA. The admission that there exist no statistical data upon which to ground his assertion is a fatal confession. In the first place it should be stated that in the face of repeated requests, government officials, Dr. Peck among them, have refused to use the unquestioned power conferred on them by law to collect according to color data on industrial payrolls and employment. Nor have these same officials caused to be made a single field study which would give any indication of the trend of

industrial payrolls or employment of Negroes. These failures point first to a total disregard of the fate of Negro workers under NRA, for it was of vital importance that NRA officials know exactly what was happening to Negro industrial workers under the codes. Secondly, the lack of such data invalidates every conclusion as to the benefit of NRA to Negroes, which Dr. Peck or anyone else might seek to draw. No source of information at the disposal of government can furnish justification for the conclusion that buying power of Negro industrial workers has increased because of NRA or that their unemployment has decreased. To the contrary, field studies made by private groups, thousands of complaints of Negro workers directed to both public and private agencies, the steadily mounting number of Negro families on relief rolls in factory towns—both North and South—give every indication that NRA has not benefited Negro workers. Furnished with the bulk of this factual material, government officials—notably those of the Labor Advisory Board—have continued the ostrich-like policy of making so-called "fair deductions" in their ivory towers.

Even Dr. Peck is willing to admit that a smaller proportion of Negro workers are benefited under NRA than white workers. But he would seek to explain this by pointing out that the proportion of Negro industrial workers to the Negro population is smaller than the corresponding proportion among white workers. Thus far his logic is sound. It is only when he continues his explanation that his statements become hopelessly muddled. Two of them deserve quotation.

In the first he wrote (after demonstrating the smaller proportion of Negro workers cited above): "Third, a more than proportionate number of Negro workers are in the service industries than is the case of white workers and, as everyone knows by this time, the labor provisions in the service trades are all not only of lower standard, but are badly enforced and there is some disposition to abandon them completely." He might have stated further that these low standards, NRA apathy in enforcing them, the desire of NRA officials to be rid of service codes completely—were in large part occasioned by the predominance of Negro labor in these industries.

Fourteen Cents an Hour

In the laundry industry—in the service group—nearly 30,000 Negro women, predominating in the Southern area, were condemned to a code wage of 14 cents an hour, a ghastly wage which, as Dr. Peck has confessed, was not enforced. In approving the code President Roosevelt specifically instructed the NRA to complete within 90 days a study of the power laundries in the 14 cent area to determine their ability to pay a higher wage. Here then was an opportunity for NRA to study what wage could be paid without destroying the industry in the South. But what everyone does not know and what Dr. Peck failed to state is the fact that although nearly three times 90 days have passed since the Presidential mandate, the NRA has not made such a study and has instead "a disposition to abandon. . . . (the code) . . . . completely." Here again NRA officials preferred to make "fair deductions" to securing "compelling statistics" which might have caused them to raise the wages of these Negro workers and to enforce those wages.

The second statement deserving quotation is equally startling. He wrote: "Because such a large proportion of Negroes have unskilled occupations, more of them are affected by the minimum wage *and find themselves in exempted classes both as to wages and hours.*" (Italics are mine).

This statement, like the first, is not an explanation. Rather it is an admission that, although the NRA was "ballyhooed" as the instrument to establish decent living wages, nevertheless the NRA has allowed thousands of black workers to be paid wages even below the admittedly inadequate wages incorporated in the codes.

In the light of such statements as these, Dr. Peck's later remark that none of the 500 odd codes has a Negro differential is nonsensical. It is of little consequence whether we call a code device which forces Negroes to accept a starvation wage a Negro differential or not. That ten or ten thousand white workers are also crowded with the larger number of Negroes into some of these wage ghettoes only intensifies the injustice. The only significant fact is that a miserable sub-standard wage has been imposed on occupations, and geographical areas in which the Negro predominates over the white and the unorganized over the organized; and the Labor Advisory Board has stood for it. The Board has stood for it despite the fact that soaring prices have driven the buying power which this wage represents even below that of wages paid during the depression.

Quack Arguments

In defense of differentials, Dr. Peck summons to his aid all the quack arguments so familiar in the mouths of bully-ragging industrialists at code hearings. He politely, but dogmatically insists that Negro labor is less efficient than white. It would be ridiculous to dispute this point with Dr. Peck when there is not one iota of proof for his contention. The simple fact is that lack of efficient organization and production methods in the South, make it impossible for Southern workers, black or white, to produce as much as workers enjoying superior equipment in the North. If there is anything in the argument, it is that low wages, long continued, will undermine the efficiency of any group of workers.

Further he says that there are differences in cost of living between the North and South. Curiously enough no competent economist accepts the fact which Dr. Peck alleges. The cost of living of a worker is his entire wage and a little more as well if he can find some one to give him credit. It costs him every cent he can get to live. This is true of workers in all sections. But the white worker in the North ordinarily gets more than the black worker in the South. Is cost of living higher, then, for the Northern worker? He spends more, of course, but that is not what is meant by higher cost of living. For the cost of living to be higher in the North it is necessary to prove that the same goods—or that equivalent standards—cost more in the North than in the South. No such proof has ever been made. All that anyone can say is that Southern workers have lower standards of living *because* they get lower wages.

And finally Dr. Peck expresses grave fears that payment of decent wages will mean displacement of Negroes with white workers. Unctuously he writes, "While Negro workers are most efficient in so many occupations in which they are finding a place for themselves, it still remains true, especially in the South, that many of them found a place for themselves before the era of codes by accepting wages less than those for which white workers were willing to work." Equalization of wages according to Dr. Peck will cause "public opinion" to so react against Negro labor as to cause its displacement. Baldly stated his argument amounts to this: Negroes were paid less than whites for the same work before the code period. If they are given equal pay with whites in a given locality they will lose their jobs. But at the same time Dr. Peck declares there is no Negro differential. Thus by his hypothesis, in the South, Negroes and whites in the same coded industry must be getting the same wage minimum. But if they do then it must follow that Negroes are being displaced.

(*Continued on page* 304)

HOLLYWOOD

"Uncle Tom in Hollywood" is the subject of a penetrating essay on the Negro in the movies by Loren Miller which will appear in the November CRISIS.

Editorials

Norris Dendy's Children

THIS is the annual children's number of THE CRISIS and we commend to you the pictures of them in these pages—the one on the cover and and those throughout the magazine. They are fine, healthy youngsters. We could talk about them, but this editorial is about the five children of the late Norris Dendy, of Clinton, S. C., because they have a message for America. Here it is:

Our grandfather was a good man, a skilled carpenter, a hard worker, and a thrifty, respectable citizen. He became a building contractor, erecting houses and stores for leading people of Clinton. He enlarged his own home from time to time to care for his growing family of boys and girls. He gave every child a college education and they all became what are called respectable citizens, occupying good positions in their respective vocations and in their communities.

Our father, Norris, was the only boy of the family to come back to Clinton to live after he finished college. Most of the white folks in our town did not like our father because he was educated and because he was smarter than they were and he showed it. They tried to put him away on the chain gang for crimes which they tried to plant on him, but Daddy was never convicted of any crime.. That made the white people still angrier and they kept after Daddy. They were angry, also because Grandfather had built a good house for us all on a nice paved street which had sewers and lights. They said the house was too good for "niggers."

On July 4, 1933 our father had an argument with a white man about a truck and he hit the man with his fist. The police arrested Daddy and put him in jail and would not let any of us see him or get him out. That night a mob of people took our father out of the jail and lynched him. They said he was "too smart."

Some of the people who saw the crowd outside the jail say the police officers helped the mob take Daddy away. These people were driven out of town to Washington and New York. Our Uncle Robert, up in New York, and the N.A.A.C.P. got these people to go back and testify before the Laurens county grand jury, but the jury did not do anything.

We cannot understand everything, but we do know we have no Daddy. A mob killed him mostly because he was a big, strong *man* and was not afraid of them just because they were white and he was black. We will not starve since we have our grandparents and our uncles and aunts, but we don't know how we are going to live.

Is that the way life is? How long has this been going on? If we work and save our money and get an education and rear our families and be respectable, will we be run out of town? If we build a house on a paved street will we get threatening letters? If we hold up our heads and look every man in the eye, will we be lynched? If people insult us, must we keep quiet or shall we fight like Daddy did? If we fight will we get lynched all by ourselves on a lonely road at night, or will other people help us to fight? Maybe someone will answer us when we say:

"We don't mind handicaps as we come into this life. Booker T. Washington was poor. Frederick Douglass was a slave. We can catch up even if they rob our schools, neglect our health, steal our land, cut our paychecks in half, spit in our faces. *We'll make it.* Others before us made it and we will, too. *But how about this lynching business?* If they will just let us live and breathe, we'll make the grade, but what chance have we when 300 of them go after one of us? This lynching business is your job, grown folks. *What are you going to do about it?"*

Union Labor Again

DAILY the problem of what to do about union labor, or even about a chance to work, confronts the Negro workers of the country. It now appears that the laundry strike called in St. Louis, Mo., early last spring was an attempt of the newly organized union to oust the Negro laundry workers from the union.

The National Urban League revealed late in August that the strike called by steel workers in Milwaukee, Wis., had as one of its prime objects the forcing of the summary discharge of all Negro workers.

Seeking to avail itself of the powers granted under section 7A of the NRA, union labor strategy seems to be to form a union in a given plant, strike to obtain the right to bargain with the employers as the sole representative of labor, and then to close the union to black workers, effectively cutting them off from employment. The Negro is thus forced to become either a strikebreaker or an advocate of the open shop—both anathema to union labor.

We have an idea that sooner than most people think, the rank and file workers are going to scrap the craft union structure, dump the A. F. of L. overboard, and organize industrial unions without a color line. Then we will have a real labor movement in this country.

Old Story

HOWARD TAYLOR, protesting and weeping, declares he did not slash the throat of a 19-year-old college girl in Birmingham, Ala., whom he invited for an automobile ride. Her body was found some yards from his car from which she had jumped to avoid his attentions. Taylor told police:

"Probably a Negro did it."

In spite of the fact that Birmingham police authorities announced that the case against Taylor was practically "air tight," he was acquitted by a jury. No mobs were formed and no troops called out.

The Cats Come Out of the Bag

GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia has been having quite a tussle with organized labor in his state over his refusal to follow the NRA and PWA wage scales on construction projects undertaken in Georgia with federal aid. This summer his agent, John E. Whitley, was haled into court and enjoined from carrying on highway construction because NRA wage scales were not being paid. The Georgia Federation of Labor charged Governor Talmadge with "seeking to make peons of laborers employed in state highway construction."

No sooner was the Governor's agent enjoined than the state highway department decided to take over the work. Judge Max L. McRae, member of the highway board, announced the wage policy in these words:

"There will be no Negroes pushing wheelbarrows and boys driving trucks getting forty cents an hour when the good white men and white women, working in the fields alongside these roads, can hardly earn forty cents a day."

The cat, of course, has never been very far in the bag so far as wage scales for Negroes are concerned in the southern states. There has been some surface pretension in open conferences and in the NRA codes themselves, that the lower wages were not based on *race,* but on *geography.* Judge McRae, God bless him, will have none of this thin hypocrisy. He means Georgia is not going to pay Negroes forty cents an hour while the good white folks get less. That is that, sir, and you can write New Deal regulations until you wear

Editorials

off your fingertips and that is still the way it is going to be.

Over in Alabama, sister state of Honest Judge McRae, another cat is out. The Southland Manufacturing company of Montgomery, employing between 200 and 300 colored girl textile workers, has announced it is shutting down the plant because the NRA will not grant it the right to pay the girls $9 a week instead of the $12 required by the cotton textile code.

The company officials claim the colored labor is not efficient. The NRA sent an investigator into the Montgomery plant several months ago, however, and this official reported the plant more efficient than some operated with white labor. He suggested that efficiency could be increased by certain mechanical changes. In other words, even with obsolete machinery, the colored girls were producing as efficiently as some white-manned plants.

This record of the Southland company is especially clear and illustrates perfectly the philosophy of the South in its pleas to the NRA boards in Washington. The company applied for exemption from the code as soon as it was signed by the President in July, 1933. It painted horrible pictures of 300 helpless colored girls thrown out of employment should it close. It persuaded some colored people to go to Washington and back up its application for exemption.

A careful reading of Dr. Gustav Peck's article in THE CRISIS for September shows that he has been impressed, to a degree, by these "arguments" from Dixie. He is inclined to believe that perhaps the labor is less efficient; that the cost of living in small towns may be lower; that southern industry may deserve a sort of nursing period (with colored workers paying the freight); and, therefore, that there is some merit in the contentions for differentials.

The NRA's own investigation of the Southland company plant knocks this philosophy all askew. Now that the cats are jumping out of the bag, we wonder if the Recovery administrators will recognize them for what they are. Will they say they can't fight the Civil War all over again? If they do say this, we have one more question: If the nine million Negroes in the thirteen southern states out of a total population of thirty-four millions are to be shut out of the Recovery program, can there be any recovery for Dixie?

A Negro Theatre

TWO articles in THE CRISIS, one by S. Randolph Edmonds in the August issue, and one last month by Wayland Rudd, have bewailed the state of the theatre generally and the absence of a true Negro theatre in particular. Mr. Edmonds has pointed out that dramatic clubs in Negro colleges, somewhat belatedly, are building, slowly and painstakingly, the basis for a real Negro theatre. Mr. Rudd points to the Russian theatre as an example for Negroes and for the American theatre to follow.

There should be no quarrel with the contention of Mr. Rudd that the Negro has something vital to give the American stage, nor with his assertion that our stage, built purely on box-office psychology, has rebuffed all except commercially profitable Negro themes, i.e., buffoonery and futility. Until the American theatre does develop beyond its present stage, Negroes will be doing themselves (and the theatre, eventually) a distinct service if they will encourage their own little theatre movements.

There is an obstacle, however, which the presentation of "Stevedore" in New York has served to emphasize: How shall colored people be drawn to the support of a worthwhile theatre? Certainly no more vital play on a theme across the color line has been produced on the American stage than "Stevedore." It is packed with all the problems which beset Negro and white Americans: jobs, religion, sex, timidity, militancy, police brutality, exploitation, and prejudice of both Negroes and whites. It is acted admirably by a capable cast. Its message is clear as a bell, its character delineations sharp enough for the most obtuse, its language simple and forceful. The prices, with a dollar and a half maximum and a thirty-five cent minimum, were within the reach of most folk.

Yet "Stevedore," offering everything that colored Americans ought to jam theatres to see, played to overwhelmingly white audiences during its run. Why? "Stevedore" would seem to indicate that an important task of the workers for a Negro theatre, as Mr. Edmonds has stated, is the education of audiences.

Another Cause of Lynchings

FOOD for sociologists, investigators and philosophers who dig into the causes of lynching is contained in dispatches from two separate portions of the Southland. From Wichita Falls, Tex., comes the information that a young matron of the white race met another young matron of the same race in the crowded shopping district, pulled a trusty revolver from her dainty handbag and ended the life of the woman she claimed had "broken up her home."

From Louisiana the always dependable Kingfish Long provides news with his antics. Some persons profess to see Huey's intentions as those of a fascist dictator. We think that is a lot of nonsense. Huey and the Wichita Falls matron are both victims of the same disease: the desire to look after matters *personally* rather than take their chances in organized society. This disease is one of the little-publicized causes of lynching.

Baseball Business

IN an open bid for the patronage of Jewish fans, the New York Giants, leaders in the race for the National League pennant, have added Phil Weintraub, outfielder and slugger, to the regular line-up of the world's champion baseball team. Of course, Weintraub is a good ball player, not simply dead weight bait for money at the turnstiles. The point is that the Giants have not concealed the fact that they have wanted a Jewish star all along in order to coax more support from the large Jewish population of New York. Hank Greenberg, the slugging infielder of the Detroit Tigers, leaders in the American League, is another Jewish star whose presence doesn't hurt the gate receipts.

THE CRISIS recognizes the obstacles cited by W. Rollo Wilson in his article in this issue, but we join with many colored and white baseball writers and fans in the suggestion that it is about time to give Negro baseball stars a chance in the big leagues. There are several who are of big league caliber and many who could be trained. New York is the logical place for the beginning to be made since there are 327,000 colored citizens here and another 100,000 within easy commuting distance. There are nearly 1,000,000 Negroes in the other cities on the National and American league circuits.

It would be good sportsmanship to make baseball for once a truly American game by barring no American from competition on account of color. Besides, it would be good business.

Lynching County Seeks Fresh Prey

So far, the Chicago branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has managed to hold off the officers of Maury County, Tenn., seeking to return Leander McCline to the Tennessee hills where Cordie Cheek was lynched December 15, 1933

IT was just ten days before Christmas in 1933 that Maury county Tennessee did its bit to see that the lynching record for the year was kept up almost to the last day. Two automobile loads of good white citizens of the county drove to Nashville, snatched Cordie Cheek, a slim lad of 17, from the very doorstep of Fisk University, dashed across the county line to Columbia, Tenn. and lynched him. Cheek had committed the "crime" of being acquitted by a Maury county grand jury.

Notwithstanding its record in the Cheek case, Maury county is now pleading at the bar of Illinois for the custody of one Leander McCline, a clear-eyed young man of 27, whom it charges with murder of a white man on September 9, 1931.

Arrayed against the southern police officers and the lynching county of Maury is the legal staff of the Chicago branch of the N. A. A. C. P. which took over the case in August, 1933 and has been fighting a tooth-and-toenail battle for more than a year to save McCline from the fate of Cordie Cheek. Irvin C. Mollison and Oliver A. Clark, taking over the work after relatives of McCline had spent all their money in a habeas corpus proceeding which failed, and after the judge had ordered McCline delivered to the Tennessee officers, have finally appealed the case of their client to the United States circuit court of appeals. Their fight through all the courts, often with only minutes to spare before McCline would have been on a southbound train, forms a dramatic chapter in the extradition fights of the Negro against the lynching system of the South.

Not in the State

In the first place it is worthy of note that McCline was first arrested on the request of Tennessee, which in turn was acting on a sworn affidavit made by Mrs. George Owens, white, that McCline killed her husband with a shotgun September 9, 1931. McCline in the habeas corpus hearing, denied he was in Tennessee at the time of the killing, saying he had arrived in Chicago August 30, 1931 and had not left the state of Illinois except for a trip to St. Louis in October, 1931. Judge John Pystalski, after hearing both sides, turned McCline over to Deputy Sheriff Kellie Farris of Maury county.

Messrs. Mollison and Clark, attorneys for the branch, were determined that McCline should not go back. They searched the record in the habeas corpus hearing and found enough errors to secure a 30-day stay. They secured yet another stay until October 14 and filed a bill of exceptions, then secured another stay to November 23.

On November 15 began the arguments which were to end alternately in success and failure up to the appeal to the U. S. circuit court of appeals. Mr. Mollison, after having worked days and nights over the record, secured a writ of error from Justice Frederic de Young of the Illinois supreme court, which held McCline in Illinois until argument on the writ could be heard by the supreme court. The record and briefs were filed by the young attorneys on December 1.

The bad news was handed down by the supreme court in the latter part of April, 1934: the court affirmed the decision of the Cook county criminal court and Leander McCline must be turned over to the agent of Maury county, Tenn.

But the branch and Attorney Mollison, with Cordie Cheek's fate fresh in their minds, were not whipped yet. Hardly had the supreme court papers been delivered to Sheriff Myering of Cook county, authorizing him to turn over the prisoner, before Mollison was racing to the United States district court with a petition to Judge Charles E. Woodard for a writ of habeas corpus. Mollison knew he had only about two hours to argue his petition, get the papers signed, and get them to the sheriff before McCline would be on a southbound train. Judge Woodard granted the writ reluctantly at 3:45 p.m. Fifteen minutes later, as the Maury county deputy sheriff was preparing to take McCline to the train, the writ was served.

"Want to Make Him Tell"

In his brief in support of the writ Mr. Mollison summed up the case against all southern communities who seek Negro fugitives in the North and in addition made the startling assertion that Deputy Sheriff Farris of Maury county had told persons in Cook county that McCline was not wanted for the actual murder, "But to make him tell who did it, as he (Farris) was sure a white bootlegger killed Owens." The Mollison brief set forth that McCline was not in Tennessee at the time of the killing; that Tennessee did not permit Negroes to sit on grand or petit juries and McCline was thus being deprived of his rights without due process of law; and that Tennessee officials have not in the past 70 years given fair trials in cases of Negroes accused of crime against white persons.

But Judge Woodard on June 7 decided to dismiss the petition and permit McCline to be taken back, stating that he did not wish to go contrary to a decision of the Illinois supreme court. Discouraged, but not yet beaten, the branch, through Mr. Mollison, prayed an appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals. The branch was out of funds, having spent more than $200 in the fight, but the national office in New York contributed $100 toward the expenses of the new appeal.

McCline at present rests in the relative security of the Cook county jail in Chicago. His N. A. A. C. P. lawyers have filed their brief in the next to the highest court of the land. Maury county, Tenn., with the blood of young Cordie Cheek still staining its hands, has reached in vain for fresh prey for its lynching mobs.

Irvin C. Mollison

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

The Washington (D. C.) *Tribune*

CHARLES Houston, dean of the Howard Law School, has been criticized for his handling of the Crawford case by many leading members of the bar, and others have taken the stand that there was no other course to have been followed.

Those in favor of the way the case was handled point out that a lawyer's first duty is to his client, not to the race. Crawford's life was in jeopardy and the main issue was to keep him from the electric chair for the heinous crime he is said to have committed.

Others say the case should have been appealed and the constitutional rights question should have been brought up.

As we see it, it is unfortunate that most Negroes do not think of their constitutional rights until some other man's life is in the balance.

There are hundreds of cases coming up in various southern courts every day where constitutional rights could easily be made an issue if associations and lawyers wanted to. Why wait until a life is at stake before the question is mentioned? We doubt if any of those who are opposed to the way Attorney Houston handled the case would give a hoot about the race's constitutional rights if their lives were in danger of being snuffed out.

Commenting upon the opposition of the railroads to the pension act, D. B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen said; "I am surprised that the railroads should attempt to enjoin the government from operating this law, because the benefits of this law mean so much to society in general."

When it comes to enjoining, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen has erected an indissoluble injunction against an element of society whose members at one time held a fair proportion of jobs as railway firemen. This element had almost a monopoly on the left side of the cab on southern railroads. One by one this element has been eliminated because the constitution of the powerful Brotherhood excludes black railway workers from membership.

On that account Mr. Robertson's remarks about the pension law being of benefit to society in general are not consistent. Those who demand justice for themselves should be just to others.—*Journal and Guide,* Norfolk.

A deputation from the Transvaal African Teachers' Association discussed with the Administrator, Mr. S. P. Bekker, last week African staff conditions and grievances. The African teachers' grievances have long cried aloud, and in vain, for redress. . . The deputation pointed out that African teachers were continually subject to a quarter's notice and that their services could be dispensed with for no reason. . . Furthermore, it was suggested that African teachers were entitled to better rates of pay: and that funds for the purpose should be obtained from the ordinary provincial revenue instead of being restricted to the Government grant from the Native Development Fund.

This very modest statement, which appears to take no account of the shortage of schools, and the large proportion of Native children who get no schooling at all owing to the parsimony of the Government,—this statement was met with the usual "sympathetic" evasion which has characterized so many previous official communications.—*Umteteli Wa Bantu,* Johannesburg, South Africa.

The New Deal has brought to many, a New Deal, a New Feel, or a New Zeal and means to many, a New Peel, a New Reel, or a New Steal.—*The Union,* Cincinnati.

Led by John Adams, president of Paine College, Augusta, Ga., A. M. E. delegates attending a youth conference in Washington voted to leave the conduct of the Herndon and Scottsboro cases to the white South. . . . Back in the pre-Civil War days of 1856, the A. M. E. General Conference declined to pass a militant resolution condemning slavery—even though such a resolution had been passed by the white Methodist Episcopal Church, North.

Delegates like John Adams complained that they had to go back down South to pastor and it would be easier for them if the church would soft-pedal the slave question.

So today we have the A. M. E.'s soft-pedaling the Herndon and Scottsboro cases.

It's a sight for the gods.—*Afro-American.*

Last week, according to President Roosevelt's promise made on a visit to Haiti, the marines packed up and sailed away.

The question is what will Haiti do now, and what will transpire on the island. It must be admitted that Uncle Sam did some good while he had his marines there. He maintained order, built good roads, cleaned up the little country and made it sanitary, kept foreign nations out, rehabilitated industries, stabilized finances and prevented revolutions. Will Haiti continue the good work begun by the United States?

However distasteful the United States' regime in Haiti, the accomplishments are well known to the world; Haiti's history before American occupation is also known—and the world looks on to see what Haiti will do with the marines gone—whether again she will start the asservation that a state under absolute Negro control is yet an impossibility.—*The Louisville Leader.*

Here's hoping that the people of South Carolina will refuse to cast their vote for such a character as Cole Blease. Like former Senator Simmons of North Carolina and former Senator Tom Heflin of Alabama the former South Carolina Senator has no place in present day politics. In their day it was thought a great thing to make an appeal to race prejudice in order to be elected to public office. . . .

To elect such a man to public office in this day and time would only serve to set the clock of progress back another half a century in South Carolina. For what contribution can Cole Blease or any other apostle of hate make to society? . . . —*The Carolina Times.*

President Hindenburg in his just-published "Political Testament" handing down the scepter of his power to Hitler, established the Nazi leader against a background outline of the stormy years of German politics since 1919. Hitler is credited with having achieved a united Germany.

We might, however, similarly praise Mrs. O'Leary's cow for her success in rejuvenating Chicago. There is the matter of method. There is the matter of cost. And in the case of Hitler, there is a question as to his success. A unity which requires a million brown-shirts for its maintenance can hardly be called perfect.—*San Francisco Spokesman.*

Negro Strategy

(*Continued from page 289*)

in the world, taking one country with another, and not a few of their philosophers believe that they do worst where their rights are largest. The meaning of complete equality, to a minority race, is only too often annihilation.

Here it may be well to remember that it is only a little while, as history goes, that such minorities have had any rights at all, and that their rights are nowhere unqualified, even today. When the League of Nations was formed after the war an effort was made to define and secure them, but that effort, as everyone knows, has failed. The Jew, once persecuted more barbarously in Russia than the Negro has ever been persecuted anywhere, has made himself safe there by acquiring a large share in the control of the state, and in England and France he has achieved the same end by throwing off much of his racial character and submitting to a high degree of assimilation. But he may lose his hegemony in Russia at any moment and find himself precisely where he was under the Czars, and late events in Germany prove that even a high degree of assimilation, so long as it falls short of complete obliteration, is not enough in itself to safeguard a minority.

Fight for General Liberties

For all these reasons I find myself full of doubt that the American Negro will recover his constitutional rights on any near tomorrow. His politicians promise him that he will, but they are only politicians. Some of his white friends tell him the same, but they have fooled him in the past. My private hope is that he will get them all soon or late, for the only future I can endure to think of is one in which no man will lack what he reasonably wants, and can show that he deserves. But before any such Utopia dawns there must be a considerable change in the thinking of the human race. It must cease believing in quacks, and transfer its confidence to facts. Above all, it must pump up more courage than it has now, for freedom is impossible without it. In order to be really free men must be ready and able to face the universe. Today most of them tremble in fear, and ask only to be herded into some safe pen.

Is the change I imagine possible? Perhaps. But it will take a long while. What can be done now? Much can be done. The Negro, like the rest of us, has his choice and his chance. If he floats with the prevailing tide such rights as he still has will follow those that he has already lost, and he will end with none at all. But if he throws himself wholeheartedly into the battle for the recovery of liberties in general, then he will be in a fair way, soon or late, to get back those rights that he craves and esteems especially. It is impossible to separate the one group from the other. They rise or fall together.

NRA Codifies Slavery

(*Continued from page 299*)

If they are not being displaced then it must follow that they are not receiving the minimum or equal wage and that the codes are not being enforced. In either case the Negro worker loses. In either case NRA is proved to be a hopeless shambles so far as Negroes are concerned.

Justifies Differential Wage

Only one other conclusion is permitted from his arguments, namely, that wage minima in the South are so low for jobs held by Negroes that the unemployed white worker would rather go without work than starve on the job as the Negro is doing. If this were not the case why has not the unemployed white worker who has received nothing as wages displaced the employed Negro worker in the South, however low the wages of the latter?

In making such a palpably absurd argument, Dr. Peck must agree with me that he is in fact justifying a Negro wage differential in codes, despite his avowal that no such thing exists. Dr. Peck, speaking as a representative of labor, shows himself clearly controlled in his thinking by the philosophy of sweat shop owners of the South. No one who knows NRA expects anything else. For we have but to look to the cases of John Donovan and Dr. Silverman—both dismissed from Dr. Peck's staff—to see what happens when the government paid representatives of labor(?) seek to rise above the level of confusion and strive for real objectives in aid of labor.

I have several times pointed out the confusion which grips the vitals of NRA. But in one aspect there is no confusion. The one consistent factor to be found in it is the attempt of its administrators to preserve the status quo and to consolidate and extend the influence of big industrialists. Such a fascist policy has led to disruption and to the codification of wage slavery. If industry were to be preserved without concessions to labor, then labor had to suffer. Gains made by a few strongly organized groups of workers were taken not from the pockets of the employers but from the sweat of less articulate workers. The Negro, being in the most disadvantaged position has been forced to bear the heaviest incidence of these new burdens. Turning away from such an ugly scene in our economic life one can only surmise that the wage slavery to which NRA has doomed the Negro may also doom the nation.

Not With Futility

By R. E. R.

Because we are of different hue,
You thought I could not see
The intimate and hidden you,
The spirit fine and free.

I look not with futility,
For how can you control
The fingers' sensitivity,—
The index to the soul.

Harriett Jean McKinney
Birmingham, Ala.

John Leslie Johnson
Leesburg, Florida

Getrtrude-Eloise and
Charlotte-Virginia Rivers
Washington, D. C.

Geddes Alvin H. Jones
New Orleans, La.

Corinne Aleese Mabry
Winston-Salem, N. C.

They Could Make the Big Leagues

By W. Rollo Wilson

In ten days or so, all eyes will be turned on the World's Series. The players in that classic will be white, but Mr. Wilson, who has been watching black and white baseball these many years, trots out a partial list of colored stars who could play big league ball if they had the chance

A FEW weeks ago I sat in the lofty press box in the White Sox park, Chicago, covering the second annual "East-West" baseball game. The opponents were picked, all star teams of Negro players, coming mostly from the National Association of Negro Baseball clubs.

Almost twenty-five thousand fans paid from fifty cents to one and a half dollars to sit in on the spectacle. It marked the "high" of attendance for a Negro sports event.

On Memorial Day, in Pittsburgh, more than 12,000 saw two baseball games between the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays, both members of the league.

Not all of the fans who go to these games are colored; in Chicago it was estimated that at least 10% of the crowd was white. In Philadelphia and, other cities sundown clubs attract large numbers of whites in their home parks and when they play white teams in white parks the attendance is largely white. Indeed, the best drawing cards on the sandlots are the high class Negro nines.

All of which leads up to the questions —why are there no colored players in Organized Baseball and will there ever be any colored players, as such, in Organized Baseball?

In recent years a symposium on the subject conducted by this writer and his associates on several weekly newspapers revealed the answer to the first question through the typewriters of many nationally known white sportswriters.

Racial prejudice which, according to Bill Dooly, of the Philadelphia *Record*, is harder to change than a lead quarter, precludes the possibility of a Negro team or Negro players in the major leagues.

Organized Baseball is built on a system of leagues of graduated ability. It is nation-wide. Not all Negro players would be eligible for the "big time" and would have to prove themselves in loops of less rating. Except in some northern spots they could never play on mixed teams. Big league teams must go South for their preliminary training and tell me a city in the South where colored athletes could live and work with their white companions.

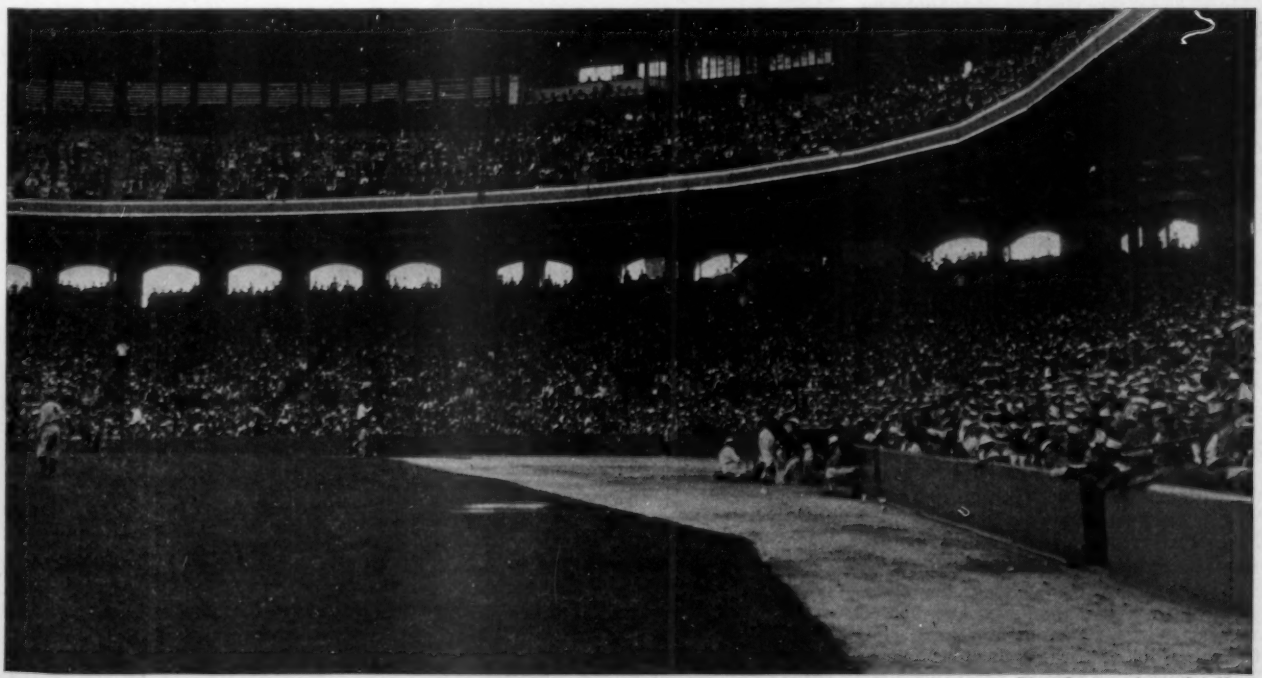
Briefly, you have the reasons; now, whether there ever will be Negro players in the big leagues, I cannot answer. The economic conditions of the game, desperate efforts some time in the future to give it new color and added stars, may pave the way. I am hopeful—and fearful.

High Grade Baseball

Denied their place in the baseball sun because of racial prejudice Negro players have gone along, playing for little or nothing and have made reputations which have endured. Here in Philadelphia you will find hundreds of white fans who will tell you that they prefer seeing colored league games to going out to watch either the A's or Phils. We have educated them to high grade baseball by colored athletes.

Many of the men I have seen playing the game in the years agone and during the current season might have been big league stars had they been given the chance.

Out in Chicago on that eventful Sunday a few weeks past was one hurler who stood head and shoulders—literally and figuratively—above his fellows. After the game the fans were full of praise for Leroy Paige, ace pitcher of the East who had turned back the West



—Photo Courtesy Amsterdam News

A Section of the Crowd of 25,000 at Comiskey Park, Chicago

menace in critical times.

They didn't refer to him as "Paige"; to each and everyone he was "Satchell", so yclept because of his long feet. Satchell Paige is the Dizzy Dean, the Rube Waddell (except that he is a right-hander) of colored baseball. Today you have him pitching a low-hit game for you; when you want him again he is on his way to the Dakotas or Dahomey. Satchell has wandering feet —maybe that's why they are so large— and he is a real problem to his owner and manager.

Jim Bell of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, scored the only run of that game and his fleetness of foot did it. He walked and stole second and tallied on a little hit which rolled across second base. A great outfielder, major league stars have said that he is the fastest man in baseball. They ought to know for many of them play with or against him during the off seasons. (In Cuba, Porto Rico or on the Coast playing with Negro stars does not brand white players with the bar sinister, it seems).

Even Babe Ruth, himself, has driven no baseball farther in the Yankee Stadium than I have seen Josh Gibson, catcher, hit them. During a series several years ago between the Homestead Grays and the Lincoln Giants, Josh, then serving his first year in tophole Negro baseball, hit one homer over the extreme left wing of the grandstand in the "House That Ruth Built."

Those Who Could

"Ted" Trent of the Chicago American Giants, is another pitcher who ought to be in the big leagues. He has everything which any big league club needs in the way of a hurler. Recently he held the hard-hitting Philadelphia Stars to two hits and lost a 3–2 game. Unfortunately for him both of the hits were home runs and one came after a runner had been put on the sacks by a teammate's error.

I have not seen a first baseman anywhere who has impressed me as much as "Buck" Leonard, of the Homestead Grays. He is a certain fielder and a hard, steady hitter who would mace as many four-masters in the big circuits as Jimmy Foxx and Lou Gehrig.

I could fill this magazine with tales of players who might have been in the big leagues but space is too limited.

For instance, there was Joe Mendez, the Cuban, nicknamed by John McGraw "the black Christy Matthewson" and Mac's statement that he would sign him for the Giants if it were possible.

Oscar Charleston fifteen or more years ago was hailed as a greater fielder and faster base runner than Max Carey, then the idol of the Pittsburgh Pirates. That praise from a white baseball writer caused Barney Dreyfuss, late president of the Pittsburgh National league club, to refuse the use of his park to Negro teams for many years.

Without any reasons I'll give the names of some of the stars of our game who might have been in the big leagues and maybe I'll get the space to explain later on. Here goes: John Henry Lloyd, Louis Santop, Dick Redding, Dave Brown, Nip Winters, Phil Cockrell, Joe Williams, Dan McClelland, Rube Foster, Willie Foster, "Chet" Brewer, Dick Lundy, Bill Monroe, Bullet Rogan, Willie Wells, Vic Harris, Clarence Williams, Pete Hill, Jess Barbour, Bill Holland, Walter Cannady and many others. Most of these lads, if given the chance—and if prejudice were not the powerful agent we know it to be—would be valuable decorations in any American or National league ballyard.

Well Babies

(*Continued from page 297*)

Only babies who are healthy are admitted to the clinic each Thursday morning. Cases of illness are referred to the pediatrics ward at General Hospital No. 2 (municipal) or at Wheatley Provident Hospital.

For the past four years Dr. H. Linder, pediatrician, has had charge of the clinic, making examinations and prescribing treatments where necessary. For this service he receives no fee. Dr. Linder is a graduate of Meharry Medical College and has since taken special training in pediatrics at Wheatley Provident Hospital.

Babies are registered at the clinic by Mrs. Edna Brooks, capable visiting nurse, who has two assistants who help with the records, tabulation and aid the examining physician. With Mrs. Brooks are five other colored nurses all of whom work out of the main office of the Visiting Nurses Association. These nurses who also rotate at the clinic are Mrs. Gene Boone, Mrs. Margrette Brown, Mrs. Archie Smith, Mrs. Bessie Lee and Miss Dorothy Greene.

At the clinic the mother is given a number for the baby, to avoid confusion and she takes her turn as the number indicates. Paper bags are supplied in which to keep the baby's clothes while waiting to see the doctor. Blankets are also provided if the mother has none. A great effort is made to have the mother bring her baby to the clinic at least once a month and most of the mothers are faithful in this respect.

The baby is then weighed and checked for physical deformities. The age and height are also recorded on his individual chart. Infants from two weeks old to four years of age are admitted at the station. In connection with the physical examination, Dr. Linder also gives a mental test.

Very few children fail to show a gain after regular attendance at the weekly clinic. Where it is deemed necessary the physician prescribes cod liver oil, and various forms of body foods. The city, since the first of the year, has supplied physicians with toxins and antitoxins free and they are allowed to make a charge of one dollar for each administration and for vaccinations. Prior to this year, however, the physician in charge of this clinic gave these services free to babies who needed it.

"It is safe to say," Dr. Linder commented in regard to the benefits derived from the well baby clinic, "that 99 per cent of the babies who are brought in are benefited by a gain in weight, height and general health. I can think of only one notable exception," he continued, "and that is the case of a mother who, it was found, was tubercular and we discovered the disease after the child had failed to show any appreciable gain in the treatments prescribed. The mother was given the tuberculin test and the child was ordered to be fed from a bottle instead of the breast."

Infant Mortality Cut 100%

Last year the station attendance at the Urban League clinic was 1,536 and at Garrison Square 584. There were 997 cases carried at the Urban League well baby station and a total of 536 at Garrison Square. Nurses made 4,151 visits to homes in the Urban League district and in the Garrison Square area 3,096 home visits.

According to Albert H. Jewell, executive director of the Health Conservation Association of Kansas City, the infant mortality among Negroes has decreased practically 100 per cent since 1925 as the following table shows on the basis of 1,000 live births.

1925	203.0
1926	195.5
1927	108.2
1928	155.0
1929	110.4
1930	94.4
1931	108.5
1932	87.2
1933	101.9

Kansas City's Negro population is 40,000 and ranks sixteenth in the United States on a basis of infant mortality.

The excellent health record made by Kansas City is no accident. It is the result of long-range planning, diligence and sacrifice on the part of citizens, both professional and laymen, white and colored, whose efforts have made the excellent clinical facilities in Kansas City possible. Long before Booker T. Washington initiated Negro Health Week in 1915, Kansas City was growing health-conscious. The first Negro hospital in the city was known as Lang hospital. Today Kansas City is an important medical center for Negroes.

Sculptor by Accident

By Roy Wilkins

WHEN Richmond Barthé was dabbling in paints in his spare time at his home in Bay St. Louis, Miss., he had no idea of becoming a sculptor. When he boarded a train for Chicago in 1924 to begin his formal art studies, he still intended to be a painter.

Quite by accident he turned to clay and found, almost overnight, after years of study, sacrifice and near starvation with crayon and paint brush, that he was really a sculptor, not a painter. From the time he modeled his first head in Chicago he has climbed steadily until now he is regarded as the most promising of the young Negro sculptors and a talented member of the younger school of sculptors, regardless of color.

Mr. Barthé's story is that of all men who make solid progress. There were no miracles, little luck, but some kindly assistance along the way. For the most part it was hard work and heavy sacrifice. He is most unassuming, almost shy, and talks reluctantly. A little at a time his story came out.

Richmond Barthé was born far down in Mississippi in 1901. He went to school there. From the very beginning he loved to draw and as he progressed in grade school, took up water colors, doing very well with them. He worked as an office boy and later as a butler with a leading family in the town.

His first Christmas gift from this family was a set of oils which fired his enthusiasm anew. He was taken to New Orleans to live and there began at once to copy Old Masters. He had never had any lessons beyond the routine ones in school.

"One day I was showing my work to a corner grocer," he said, "and a woman customer was so impressed that she interested her Rabbi who offered to send me to Chicago to study. Mother thought I was too young, however, and changed her mind after first consenting."

His chance was not gone forever. Opportunity knocked once more. Young Barthé donated a painting, "Christ's Head," to a festival given by his church and the priest, Father Kane, was amazed when told the youth had had no training. Through the Catholics, a way was found to get the young man to Chicago to art school.

The Hard Days

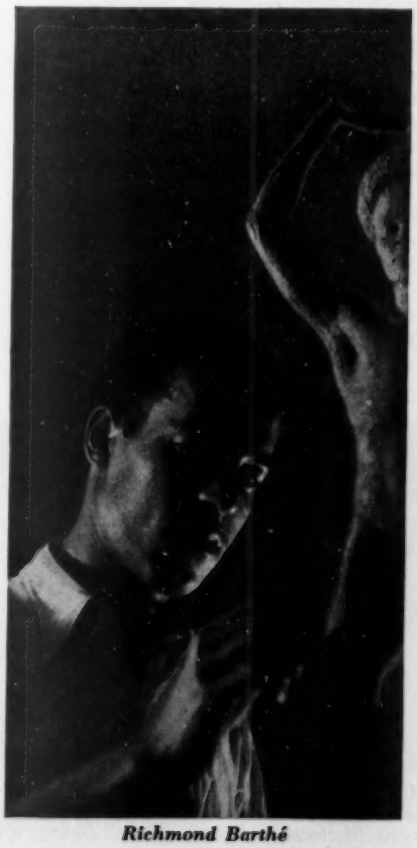
Barthé landed in Chicago ten years ago with one hundred dollars in his pocket, seventy of which had to go for art tuition. Then began the hard days, days when he did not eat—"not healthy, normal hunger that comes from exertion (to use his words), but the slow-creeping, gnawing kind, the result of days of insufficient food."

One day as his class visited the Art Institute, young Barthé saw a Polish friend in a new light. The friend had been a member of the group all along, but this day his profile struck the sensitive youngster from the South. He modeled the head and has been modeling ever since. He had found his medium.

In 1930, three years later, he held his first one man show in the Woman's City Club in Chicago, exhibiting forty pieces. He was still hungry and laughs as he describes the event:

"As a matter of fact I even borrowed carfare to go down and see the exhibit. It seemed for awhile that everyone persisted in giving me teas, while what I craved was meals."

Mr. Barthé's exhibition was taken on tour to the University of Wisconsin, Grand Rapids, Mich. and Washington, D. C. His bust of Toussaint L'Overture is now in the County Children's Home, Gary, Ind., and Haiti is using the picture of his work as a frontispiece in a new book on the great warrior. The sculptor's "Crab Man," a modeling of Leigh Whipper in his role in "Porgy," was sold, also.



Richmond Barthé

In 1929 Barthé's "Tortured Negro" won honorable mention in the Harmon Foundation show. He entered his "Jubilee Singer" also.

Eyes on West Indies

It was in December, 1931, that he gave his first show in New York at the Caz-Delbo Galleries on Madison avenue and it was greeted by the *New York Times* critic in these words:

"The . . . busts now on view at the Caz-Delbo gallery reveal a sculptor of unmistakable promise who already has accomplished some fine things. In several of these the modeling is most sensitive . . . Richmond Barthé penetrates far beneath the surface, honestly seeking essentials and never, after finding these essentials, stooping to polish off an interpretation with superficial allure. There is no cleverness, no damaging slickness, in this sculpture. Some of the readings deserve, indeed, to be called profound."

He has exhibited since in the Art Centre, Rockefeller Center, at the opening of the Caz-Delbo galleries in the new Rockefeller Center location and twice at the Whitney Museum. The Whitney Museum has bought three of his pieces: "Blackberry Woman," "Comedian," and just recently, his "African Dancer."

Only one scholarship has helped him along, one from the Rosenwald fund in 1931-32. He hopes now to get another from somewhere so he can work in the West Indies for a year and then exhibit in Paris. He may get it and he may not. This Richmond Barthé is first of all an artist. No ballyhoo for him. Give him clay and a memory of what he has seen (he seldom ever uses models) and he works. Give him a tea-cup and a cake and ask him to tell you about himself and he is as mum as the proverbial oyster. He wants this further study with a deep intensity, but his whole being revolts against "campaigning" for aid. Modestly, he depends on his work to speak for him; he wants no special treatment because of his race. His record is there and he wants to be judged upon that. After all, he didn't mean to be a sculptor, but as long as he is one, he wants to be the best possible sculptor.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

"Discourtesy"

The battle over the exclusion of Negro voters from the primaries in the state of Texas has gone merrily on during the summer. The national office, after writing repeatedly to Chairman James A. Farley of the Democratic National Committee and Emil Hurja, his assistant, without securing any definite answer to its protests and requests, circulated copies of the correspondence also among certain influential Democratic senators.

For his continued efforts to secure some action on the rights of qualified Negro voters, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, was called "discourteous" by Mr. Hurja. Mr. Hurja objected to the evidence of his negligence being circulated among senators. To this charge of discourtesy, Mr. White replied on August 23:

"I would, however, far rather be accused of 'discourtesy' than be guilty of failure to take every possible step to prevent gross violation of the federal Constitution and the flouting of decisions of the United States Supreme Court by the officials of certain state Democratic committees."

The high officials of the Democratic National Committee have continued to sidestep the "white primary" issue in the southern states and especially in Texas, but the Association is pressing the issue. More than a score of affidavits have been forwarded to Joseph B. Keenan, assistant attorney general. In some mysterious manner, as yet undetermined, the affidavits have been "lost". Mr. Keenan has written the national office that he forwarded them to the United States attorneys in Texas. The Texas officials, however, deny they have received any such affidavits. At Waco, Attorney R. D. Evans, who is active in the fight to secure the full franchise rights for Negroes in the Democratic primaries in his state, has made direct inquiries of the United States attorney in San Antonio and was told by that gentleman that no affidavits had been received from Washington.

Texans are determined to push the campaign to a successful conclusion. Already there are indications in northern and border states that the failure of the Democratic high command to observe the decisions of the United States supreme court is likely to have weight with voters in the November election.

St. Louis Mayor Sued

When St. Louis, Missouri, dedicated its new $6,000,000 auditorium, built with local and federal money, it did not suspect that soon after its mayor, Bernard Dickmann, and nineteen other city officials would be defendants in a suit filed by colored citizens and taxpayers. The St. Louis branch of the N.A.A.C.P. has filed such a suit in behalf of a taxpayer, charging the city officials with unlawfully depriving Negro citizens of the equal use and benefit of the auditorium erected with taxpayers' money.

The story begins with the very opening of the dedicatory exercises lasting one week. One of the events of the dedication was a week of grand opera in the new auditorium. Colored applicants for seats were told at first that there were no seats for them, and later, that there were seats "for colored people" only in a high gallery. The executive committee of the branch headed by Sidney R. Redmond, chairman, and the president, H. D. Espy, protested to city officials. Their excuse was that the opera officials had leased the auditorium and that the city had no jurisdiction over the policies. So determined was the protest, however, that the policy was changed and some few colored people were sold seats wherever they wished to buy.

It has become apparent, following the initial protest, that the city did not intend for colored citizens to have equal use of the auditorium and, for this reason, the branch has brought suit to settle the matter once and for all.

Tenth Anniversary

Beginning September 10 and closing with a mass meeting Sunday, September 16, the Media, Pa., branch celebrated its tenth anniversary. A program was held each night, with addresses by Dr. George W. Hinkson, Rev. Robert W. Bagnall, Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson, Herbert E. Millen, Ruth L. Bennett, Isadore Martin, Mrs. R. Eleanor Rowe, Judge Edward W. Henry, Roy Wilkins, Dr. Jesse H. Holmes, and Walter White. Appropriate musical and literary numbers were on every program. Friday night the annual banquet was held at the Campbell A. M. E. church. The address of welcome on Monday was made by Robert G. Fields, president, and a summary of the work of the branch was given on Sunday by C. I. Moat, secretary. Other branch officers are Mrs. Bertha O. Peterson, vice-president; Frederick Randolph, assistant secretary; John Taliaferro, treasurer. Executive committee: Madaline Moffitt, Vincent G. Matter, Dr. Lancess McKnight, George E. Somerville, Dr. Arthur W. King, Maggie Taliaferro, James W. Moat, Maple ReCall, John Newman, chairman. Anniversary committee: Josephine Smith, Leslie E. Reading, Dr. Lancess McKnight, Mary J. Austin, Vincent G. Matter, Bertha O. Peterson, B. E. Garnett, John E. Young, C. I. Moat, chairman.

N.A.A.C.P. PRIZE BABIES, KANSAS CITY, MO.

First Prize
Emily Ann Perry

Second Prize
Bobbie Blackwell

Third Prize
Eva Dolores Whitlock

Fourth Prize
Barbara Lee Gatewood

Mrs. Lampkin's Campaigns

A campaign for one thousand members for the Norfolk, Virginia, branch of the N.A.A.C.P. is now being conducted by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, regional field secretary of the Association. This campaign has the endorsement and support of religious, fraternal and civic groups of Norfolk, and bids fair to reach the goal set. Concurrently with this campaign, effort is being made to increase the membership in the Portsmouth and other nearby branches.

Beginning the middle of October, a state-wide campaign in New Jersey will be conducted by the State Conference of Branches, under the direction of Mrs. Lampkin. The state will be organized by counties, with a county and city committee heading up the respective sections. A state goal will be set, and each county given its pro rata share of memberships. The branches throughout New Jersey are enthusiastic over the plan, as it will be the first state-wide campaign attempted. At a meeting of the New Jersey State Conference prior to the campaign, under the leadership of Dr. Clement de Freitas, president and Mrs. Mary Rice Hayes Allen, vice-president, details of the campaign will be submitted and completed.

To Revive Baby Contests

The popular baby contests which were held regularly by the branches years ago will be revived, according to announcement of Dean William Pickens, field secretary. Although the campaigns have not been pressed with any special publicity, the contests were never given up entirely by all the branches. Last spring Kansas City, Mo., conducted one, an account of which appears in this issue. Pictures of the winning babies in Kansas City may be found on page 308. The El Paso, Tex., branch has just concluded a contest.

These contests brought thousands of dollars into the treasury of the Association, the highest amount received in any single year being $20,000. The best seasons for holding them are the fall and spring months.

Complete information about staging baby contests may be obtained by writing Dean Pickens at 69 Fifth avenue. The contests require almost no overhead expense and can be held by a branch of any size. Contests have been conducted with babies numbering from two to sixty and more. Dean Pickens suggests that with the new crops of beautiful brown babies in every section of the country, the branches ought to adopt this method of raising funds to complete their apportionments for the year and put money in the local treasuries.

Franklinton, La., Case

The New Orleans branch, in cooperation with the national office, has decided to prosecute an appeal of the cases of Jerome Wilson and members of his family of Franklinton, La., who were railroaded to death sentences and long prison terms after a deputy sheriff was slain on the porch of their home when he came to settle a quarrel said to have been held between one of the Wilson boys and a white man over the question of dipping a mule on the Wilson farm.

Officers of the branch have made an investigation for the national office and are attempting to find lawyers who will fight the case without compromise.

Special Articles

The last of a series of 22 weekly articles giving the history of the Association was released to the press the week of September 10. These articles were prepared from the case records and annual reports in the national office and cover the Association's activity on many different fronts. Altogether, they total about 38,000 words and were released under the general title "Battering Down the Barriers of Prejudice." If the national office can raise the money it plans to print the articles in a single magazine-size pamphlet for general distribution.

Ohio Conference

The fifth annual meeting of the Ohio Conference of branches will be held with the Canton branch as host on October 6-7. The meeting will be held at St. James A. M. E. church, Thirteenth and Willet Streets, S.E., Canton. The president of the Ohio Conference is C. E. Dickinson and the secretary is Miss Geraldyne Freeland.

Branch Notes

Although the **Memphis, Tenn.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. did not hold its regular monthly meetings during the summer months, it kept alive and active by making several investigations in Memphis and the tri-state territory. Two of these investigations, one at Marion, Arkansas, and the other at Biloxi, Miss., will continue this month.

In July the president of the branch, Mr. M. S. Stuart, attended the 25th anniversary conference of the Association in Oklahoma City, Okla., and served on one of its committees.

Following the close of the conference at Oklahoma City, Mr. Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, Dean Charles H. Houston, and John P. Davis, executive secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, came to Memphis and addressed a representative group of citizens at a mass meeting, arranged by the branch.

Mr. White told of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. Attorney Houston's address dealt with the "Changing Front" of the N.A.A.C.P. Mr. Davis cited numerous instances, based upon his own investigation, of injustices heaped upon the race by the New Deal.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee [Sweet Land of Liberty—

This is a picture of what happens in America—*and no other place on earth!* Here is the U. S. rope and faggot record to date:

Lynchings since January 1:

15

●

Lynchings during same period last year:

15

●

Total lynchings since 1882:

5,066

●

(Figures as of September 15)

You can help stamp out lynch law by joining the forces who are campaigning for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law by the next congress. Write the N.A.A.C.P. for information: 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

With the advent of fall, all three of the Memphis branches, the senior branch, and the two junior branches, one at Manassas high school, and the other LeMoyne college, will sponsor a series of programs. To arouse and educate the people of this city and tri-state section to the point where they will fully appreciate the significance of the N.A.A.C.P. is the aim of the three branches of Memphis.

In the meantime, while branch officials are mapping out their fall and winter program, an investigation of the whereabouts of one Charlie Cole, believed enslaved by a white farm owner near Biloxi, Miss., is being made. Cole is a resident of Memphis, but left home over five months ago to work as a cook in Mississippi. The case of Ned Gates, said to be held without bond in a Marion, Arkansas, jail, is also being looked into by Memphis N.A.A.C.P. officials.

John W. Gwynne, county attorney, was the principal speaker at the meeting of the **Waterloo, Ia.,** branch on Thursday, August 30.

Dr. Charles Dorsey, president of the **Philadelphia** branch, was a speaker at the tenth annual convention of the Federated Colored Catholics held in Philadelphia early in September.

A program to commemorate the work of the late Dr. George W. Lucas, for many years president of the **New Orleans, La.,** branch, will be held on September 30. Dr. Lucas was active in civic and fraternal affairs in New Orleans.

The **Cleveland, O.,** branch has just sent $100 to the national office for the 25th Anniversary campaign. Miss L. Pearl Mitchell is president of the branch. With the coming of the fall months, efforts are being redoubled to secure further contributions from the branches and individuals toward the 25th Anniversary before the end of the year.

The **Rahway, N. J.** branch, through Mrs. Mayme E. Shell, its secretary, has sent a protest to the editor of the Rahway News about an item which contained the statement: "There were plenty of dusky people of the land of Old Black Joe present. . ." The branch letter stated that many persons present at the event were born and reared in Rahway and vicinity and inquired if Rahway was the land of Old Black Joe, and if so, if the Nordic citizens were not then also residents of that land.

The formal unfolding of the charter of the Rahway branch was held August 13 with a largely attended mass meeting in Second Baptist church on East Milton avenue. Mrs. A. L. Chapman was the principal speaker and scored traitors of the race. Chauncey Edgar, John Johnson of Roselle, and the Choral Club of Rahway rendered musical numbers. Miss Gladys Jones gave a reading. The Rev. Edward Kirby, the Rev. J. W. P. Collier and Dr. A. L. Chapman made remarks.

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Governor H. G. Kump of West Virginia was the speaker at the opening fall meeting of the **Charleston, W. Va.** branch September 9 at the First Baptist church. The branch plans to bring well known speakers to Charleston for the fall and winter meetings and to have programs sponsored by fraternities, sororities and other organizations. T. G. Nutter is president and Mrs. Mamie Brown secretary of the branch.

A benefit midnight movie show preceded by a card party and dance was given August 16 by the **Johnstown, Pa.** branch. The theatre benefit included moving pictures featuring Cab Calloway, Ethel Waters, Duke Ellington, the Mills Brothers and Paul Robeson, Miss Anna Sawyer, Fred Richardson, James Young and Eugene Johnson assisted in the staging of the benefit.

BRANCH NEWS

Send the news from your branch regularly to THE CRISIS, 69 Fifth avenue, New York. It must reach us by the first of each month.

To raise funds for the **Newport, R. I.** branch a silver tea was held September 12 under the direction of Mrs. Lucy Hurley. The branch held a meeting August 12 officially closing its membership campaign begun early in the summer. Charles A. Battle, a past president of the branch spoke, telling of the history of the association. Other speakers were W. W. Tolbert, the Rev. Louis Jeffries, President Leroy Williams and Miss Foote. Miss Elsie Tabb played a piano solo. The music was directed by Mrs. Pearl Wallace, with Adele Sims as organist.

Dean William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. addressed the **Oberlin, O.** branch August 14. A special musical program by Miss Carrie Booker Wood, pianist, Bernard Mason, violinist, and Miss Catherine Van Buren, soprano, all graduates of Oberlin conservatory was a feature of the meeting.

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The **Omaha, Nebr.** branch sponsored a benefit dance Monday, August 20 at Roseland Gardens.

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A series of benefit entertainments of various kinds has been started by the **Jennings, La.** branch to raise funds to assist in carrying on the campaign for the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill by the next Congress. The branch is also conducting a membership campaign to run into the fall. S. E. Briscoe is president and H. E. Allen is secretary of the branch, which was organized only last spring.

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A total of $500.07 was raised by the Baby Popularity contest sponsored last spring by the Woman's Auxiliary of the **Kansas City, Mo.** branch. Nine babies were contestants for cash prizes which totaled $105. First prize of $50 went to Emily Ann Perry (since deceased), 11 months old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. B. Perry, who brought in $190.94. Second prize of $25 went to Bobby Blackwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Blackwell, who brought in $94.70. Third prize of $15 went to Eva Dolores Whitlock, 2, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Whitlock, who brought in $70.07. Fourth prize of $10 was awarded Barbara Lee Gatewood, 2, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Gatewood, who brought in $55. Mrs. Callie M. Herriford is president of the Woman's Auxiliary.

LETTERS from READERS

The McClendon Essay

DEAR SIR: The prize winning essay by Wm. H. McClendon was quite interesting. Many of his statements are true, some all too true. I feel that the article, however, provides a source of comfort to the advocates of segregation. The arguments he sets forth for the most part are entirely practical. However, it appears that he has accepted as a premise for his argument the fact that we are Negroes first. In other words he admits first that we are licked, then presumes to tell us how to make the best of the situation. One cannot deny that the Negro college offers our youth ideal preparation for *leading a Negro existence.* Can we, though, hope to prosper and advance to the point of consummating a complete destruction of American color prejudice by following the paths which tend to our perpetuation as Negroes? Does he offer any solution to this horrible condition? No.

The matter of extra-curricular activities should not enter the equation of any people who are truly anxious to break the bonds of slavery. Something must be sacrificed to reach finally a certain goal. Do Chinese, Japanese and other foreign students come to American universities for the good they may get out of their education at these universities or do they put extra-curricular activities above this? Aren't the contacts we would make (and there are such individual friendships) in the great American universities with those high in every field of American activity worth more to us in the long run than our immediate sacrifice of the enjoyment of these activities? He speaks of the possibility of the white man changing his fundamental attitude toward us. Can this be possible ever, if we withdraw, close ourselves up in a Negro shell, instead of letting him know us by attending all the large colleges and universities? Unfortunately, we think only in terms of today. At times I wonder whether many of us entertain any hope, and I might add, desire, of a real emancipation.

GEORGE F. MILLER, M.D.
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Sir: Mr. McClendon seems to entertain the opinion that it is veritably impossible for a Negro, trained in northern institutions, to serve his own people. He bases his conclusion upon an example, concocted by him, of an "average" Negro student in a white college. I personally question his authority for using the word "average" in compiling his artificial and manufactured description of us as a group is entirely based on theory and without foundation, save his personal hypothesis and conclusion. I sometime wondered, while reading this essay of his, whether the author of it ever visited a northern institution. I am quite sure that he would have revoked many of his statements, had he seen the facts.

In the first place, the "average" Negro student of the North does not segregate himself from his brethren of color, as Mr. McClendon would have one believe. On the contrary, we have always been on friendly and speaking terms with one another, with naturally a few exceptions. . . . I defy anyone to visit a northern campus and see any distinct

minority of our group segregate themselves in the manner described by the prizewinner.

It is true that we are discriminated against socially. But after all, what is the prime consideration in attending an institution of higher learning? Is it to gain a place in Mr. McClendon's so-called "social spotlight", or is it to "buckle down" to serious study? . . .

We who have been reared and educated in the North have no school to go to other than white schools. We are not to blame for that. They who live in the South have no schools to go to other than Negro schools. They also are not to blame. Such petty jealousy is unnecessary and childish. We both are taking the utmost advantage of our respective situations. We of the North are certainly not to blame if we may obtain better educational facilities than our fellow students of the South. If Mr. McClendon were transplanted to northern soil I am sure that he would follow the same course of action, namely to get the best education that he possibly could. . . .

There are advantages in attending a Negro school. Those advantages no doubt offset the disadvantages. Too, there are advantages in attending a white school. It is my belief that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages in this instance also. It is not for this writer to attempt to state which of the two is better. The writer has never attended a Negro school; furthermore, he is not sufficiently indiscreet to venture an opinion, based on mere theory, as to the merits and faults of a Negro school, as Mr. McClendon has ventured in the direction of the northern school.

With all due respect to those colleges "designed for the training of Negro youth", it is my personal opinion that such training is not necessarily a requisite to efficient service to the race. Let me hasten to add that neither is training in a northern institution the essence of leadership with respect to our people. After all, the character of the individual in question has something to do with his contribution to the advancement of the Negro race. It is not fair, to my mind, to say that only southern graduates are qualified to lead our people. Conversely, it is unjust to say that only northern graduates are qualified. This writer would weigh each individual case purely upon its merits.

J. W. Newman

Columbus, O.

New Magazine

Carl Bulosan is the editor of The New Tide, a monthly magazine scheduled to appear the latter part of September. The editorial office is at 214 North Hope street, Los Angeles, Calif.

TVA

(*Continued from page* 291)

and social rehabilitation program. The general attitude of the T.V.A. toward the Negro is that he is a harmless nuisance which has to be tolerated but which one cannot afford to encourage. Yet fundamentally no recovery program in the South can succeed without admitting the Negro to his full and equal share. If it is a question of increasing buying power, the South cannot raise itself very high as long as it keeps twenty-five per cent of its population on starvation wages. If it is a question of social rehabilitation and the standards of living, the South cannot be secure as long as one-fourth of its population is held in ignorance, squalor and disease. The South cannot keep its prejudice and have its prosperity too. And in T.V.A. the South is in the saddle.

Negroes must relentlessly attack and continue to attack discrimination in the T.V.A. with pitiless publicity, politically, at law, and with whatever other means are at their disposal. If they can break discrimination in the T.V.A. and obtain for the Negro population of the Tennessee River Basin its full share of the economic and social rehabilitation of the region, they will have made a great step forward. But only a step. For if the Negro population is to benefit by the cheap electricity produced and distributed by the T.V.A., it means that the fight must go on to increase its purchasing power. The fight must go on to get the Negro industrial worker increased recognition and income under the NRA, and the Negro sharecropper and farmer a larger share of his produce under the AAA. The stark truth is that the entire "New Deal" administration must be made to realize that the economic wage slavery and social suppression cursing the South today, are absolutely incompatible with a real return to prosperity.

BOOK REVIEW

LE NOIR by W. Mercier Cook, Assistant Professor of French, Howard University . . . American Book Co., N. Y.

Professor Cook's Le Noir comes to fill a long felt want in our colored schools and colleges. French texts—short stories, plays, novels—have been introduced by the score in all of our French classes; but, either consciously or unconsciously, the authors of these texts have with rare exceptions refrained from including anything in them that pertains to the Negro. So long, however, as Negro teachers of French take no active part in the preparation of school texts, this is only what is to be expected.

In Le Noir, Professor Cook has given over forty selections taken from a wide range of French masters, the names of many of whom are already well known to the reading public: Montesqueu, Voltaire, Robespiere, Lafayette, Balzac, Lamartine, George Sand, Hugo, Dumas père, Daudet, Maupassant—twenty-nine all told—who have had in one way or another something interesting to say about Negroes. Whether one reads Montesquieu's De l'Esclavage des Nègres, Buffon's Les Ethiopens, Robespiere's speech on the Condition of the Free Men of Color in the French Colonies, Thiers' The Rule of Toussaint Louverture, or Gide's Voyage au Congo, one cannot but be impressed with the attempt of the author to bring these "choice morsels" to the attention of our students of French.

The short biographical sketches, delineating where possible the authors' view point on the Negro, together with the brief introduction which accompanies each selection, add greatly to the interest and intelligence of the passages. The Suggested Readings should also afford added incentive to further study and investigation.

One could wish, however, that Professor Cook had seen fit to have his notes, which, after all, are not a great deal, at the foot of the page; and his Conversational Exercises and Suggested Readings at the end of each selection. Buried away as these are in the middle of the book, they are not only inconvenient to get at but are not as effective as they otherwise would have been.

In fine, the text, which is well illustrated and contains an almost complete vocabulary, is adaptable to the intermediate classes; it may also with advantage be used as a point of departure by advanced classes for further studies into the question of the place of the Negro in French literature. Le Noir ought to be used as a text in all of our schools and colleges; no longer should it be truthfully said that the Negro has been overlooked in our French classes.

T. A. Daley

TERROR

A personal account of the new anti-Red, anti-Negro wave of terror in the South will be written for the November Crisis by Louise Thompson, who was jailed in Birmingham, Ala.

ADVERTISING PAGES REMOVED

Watermelon Man

(*Continued from page 293*)

world. He simply realized that he knew his job and that what he was doing for his employer he ought to be able to do for himself, using the same or better methods.

Success did not yield to his wooing at the start. For more than twenty years he was casting about: in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois; sometimes doing business for himself, sometimes for others. He opened business in Chicago in 1902, but a dozen years passed before he set his foot in the path that was to carry him to fame and moderate fortune.

In 1914, Mr. Winningham contracted to purchase a dwelling at the corner of Giles avenue and Thirty-seventh street. In the two upper stories, his family lived. He opened his business in the basement. His business was the sale of fish and watermelons, each in its season.

When winter would come, the first-story outside wall of the building was painted with fish. In summer, the fish were painted over and watermelons took their places.

Those days in 1914 were when the "best families" lived in that neighborhood. Some scoffed at the man who brought fish and watermelons to the basement of his home. But they came to know later that Winningham was bringing the very best fish and watermelons. Not only they, but an ever-widening circle of persons.

Internationally Known

The neighbors who scoffed learned other things: that his business was Mr. Winningham's first concern; that he was no meddler in the affairs of other persons; that he lived modestly and cleanly; that he took care of his family; that he helped many persons with money and advice, but never with any fanfare, and that as success came to him, he never changed; in short, that he was a moral and industrious man.

Winningham's watermelons are known, not only throughout the United States, but in Africa, Brazil, Cuba and many other foreign countries.

At the time of the 1928 conference of the A. M. E. church an African delegate, a prince in his own country, was stranded in Chicago. With no security and no noise, Winningham gave the man several hundred dollars to cover his expenses. The African prince returned home, repaid the money, and Mr. Winningham was made a member of the tribe, with generous acres of land allotted to him.

"Ain't it nice," he muses, "to have people far away from you, who have never seen you, to think so much of you?"

On another occasion, he sought to locate watermelon plantations in Brazil, but was dissuaded by white Americans there who insisted that the Brazilian native was unworthy.

In order to be the first in the market with watermelons in Chicago, Mr. Winningham purchased melons for his May trade in the Isle of Pines, Cuba.

Said he to me as we stood on the pavement outside his establishment: "Do you see those ruts there, young man?"

I noticed the grooves worn into the street near the curb.

Then he asked: "Was it Emerson?" and eyed me to see if I would know.

Yes, it had been Emerson who had told how the world would make a beaten path to the door of the man who made what was best, if it were no more than a rat trap.

Sells 17,000 Annually

Mr. Winningham knows his watermelons, knows not only where the best ones may be purchased, but also when. There are some months when Mississippi melons are not good. Georgia melons are not always the best. There is a month when the best melons come from Indiana. Winningham knows.

There were times when he tested each melon of a thousand in a carload lot. His touch was unerring. The commission men came to know him and to regard his skill with awe. Sometimes, after he had tested two or three hundred, they would say: "This entire lot runs the same way."

"All right," Winningham would agree, "send it on out."

If one melon were discovered to be under grade afterwards, back would go the entire carload. He doesn't sell under grade melons, so he won't buy them. And nobody attempts to send him inferior fruit any more.

In good seasons, from early May until late October, the watermelon king sells as many as 17,000 melons. Figure that up, eight slices to the melon, twenty cents a slice.

Side by side with her father in the development of the business has stood his daughter, Grace.

"There's a girl who would make any man a good wife," he boasts.

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